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# ARAB TIMES



NO. 7780

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1990/RAJAB 3, 1410 AH

22 PAGES 150 FILS

## 'Million-peso' price Coup-general seized in raid

MANILA, Jan 29. (Reuters): Philippine troops in a dawn raid today captured a rebel general regarded as one of the main organisers of last month's failed coup against President Corazon Aquino, the military said.

Brigadier-General Edgardo Abesina, who had a million-peso (\$44,500) price on his head, is the most senior officer arrested since the rebellion was crushed.

Military officials said he suffered bruises trying to escape troops who surrounded his Manila hideout.

"He must have sensed it so he tried to get out, hoping to escape in the darkness, but he was subdued," Colonel Jesus Ranjo, chief of staff of the Manila defence command, told reporters.

(See Page 2)



Beaten hollow

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice celebrates on the shoulders of his teammates after scoring his second touchdown on Super Bowl XXIV during the second quarter. 49ers beat Broncos 55-10. (Reuter wirephoto) See Page 21

## Kashmir leader hardens demand

ISLAMABAD, Jan 29. (Agencies): The leader of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front today demanded that India end ongoing military operations in the disputed Muslim region.

"The people of Kashmir in general, and JKLF in particular, will never accept any solution which is not based on ... self-determination," JKLF chairman Amanullah Khan told a news conference in the capital of Pakistan.

He said it was up to the people of the region sandwiched between Afghanistan and China and claimed by both India and Pakistan to "decide to accede to either Pakistan or India ... or opt for their own independence, he said.

Khan's demand indicated a hardening of the Kashmiri stand which, previously, revolved round two options — to join either Pakistan or India.

In Islamabad, the Pakistan cabinet declared today the country would observe a special week to mark its solidarity with Kashmiris fighting Indian rule.

The meeting devoted to Kashmir was called by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto while her daughter Prime Minister Asif Ali Zardari is recovering from the birth of her second child, gave no details but said the solidarity week would begin on Friday.

It also decided to convene a special joint session of Parliament on Feb 10 to discuss the Kashmir conflict.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqoob Khan is due to spell out Pakistan's policy on the Kashmir issue in a televised address on Tuesday evening.

JKLF leader criticised US President George Bush and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for suggesting this week that India and Pakistan should solve the Kashmir issue through bilateral talks.

"By doing so, they have insulted and humiliated 12 million Kashmiris," he said.

The head of the most powerful Kurdish separatist group condemned both Pakistan and India, saying they "have no right at all" to decide the future of the disputed region.

The "Kashmir issue is not a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan, but it concerns Kashmiris' right of self-determination," he said. "Kashmiris" (Continued on Page 2)

## Arabs step up protests

### Soviet Jews' emigration

CAIRO, Jan 29. (AP): President Saddam Hussein of Iraq blamed the United States today for an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, leading a conflict of Arab protest.

The Arab League brought up the question officially with the United States, and Arab foreign ministers were reported planning to meet on how to stop the flood.

The Soviet Union also drew Arab fire, as newspapers echoed PLO leader Yasir Arafat's weekend call for the Soviet government to reverse itself and curtail migration of its Jews to Israel.

In a Cairo speech on Saturday, Arafat appeared to point blaming fingers at both the Soviet Union and the United States. The PLO chairman appealed to Moscow for restrictions as he alleged that Washington was giving Israel money to help settle immigrants.

Israeli officials have predicted 300,000 Soviet Jews will arrive in Israel in the next three years under relaxed Soviet emigration procedures.

Speaking to reporters in Cairo, Saddam said the influx is causing "plain and serious harm" to the Palestinians. Arafat told the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Yawm that the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel is a "catastrophe befalling the Arab world."

Arafat and other Arab leaders clearly fear that settling Soviet and other immigrants in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza would make an Arab-Israeli peace

settlement more difficult, if not impossible.

Conquered by Israel in 1967, the two territories are the crux of the conflict. If hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants settled there, the Arabs fear Israel would be reluctant to relinquish any part of the territories the PLO want as a Palestinian state in confederation with Jordan.

Their fears have been deepened by a recent statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel must retain the West Bank and Gaza to settle Soviet Jews.

The United Arab Emirates' newspaper Al Bayan quoted Farouk Kadoumi, head of the PLO's political department, as saying Arab foreign ministers will meet next Monday in the Tunisian capital Tunis. He said their subject will be whether to approach Soviet and East European officials to stop their Jews from going to Israel.

Presently about 70,000 Jews live in more than 120 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Some 12,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel last year, but Israeli officials expect the annual volume to soar to 100,000 in the next few years.

Saddam told reporters in Cairo, "this matter involves plain and serious harm to the Arabs generally and the Palestinians in particular. We regard the United States as a participant in this immigration because of its policies."

(See Pages 9 and 11)

## UK appoints new ambassador to Kuwait

LONDON, Jan 29. (Kuna): The British government announced today the appointment of Michael Weston as its new ambassador to Kuwait.

The new envoy will replace Peter Hinchcliffe, who will take up a further diplomatic service appointment, the Foreign Office said.

Weston was born on Aug. 4, 1937 and was educated at St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, southern England.

He entered the foreign service in 1961 and took up his appointment as a third secretary later that year. The new envoy is an Arabist who was assigned to

the Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies (Mecas) in Lebanon on full-time Arabic language study.

On completion of his course was appointed third and later second secretary in Kuwait.

Weston also served previously at the Arabic department of the Foreign Office.

At the beginning of 1968 he began Persian language training in preparation for his posting three months later to Tehran as first secretary.

From 1970 to 1974 he served as the first secretary at the UK mission to the United Nations in New York.

TEMPERATURE will remain below normal with light to moderate north-easterly wind.

State of sea: Slight  
High water: 2.00 am, 3.00 pm  
Low water: 9.00 am, 9.00 pm  
Sunrise: 6.39 am  
Sunset: 5.24 pm  
Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 13°C 55°F  
Ahmed: 13°C 55°F  
Fallata: 12°C 54°F  
Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F  
Ahmed: 5°C 41°F  
Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 14°C 57°F  
Ahmed: 14°C 57°F  
Fallata: 13°C 55°F  
Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 91 per cent  
Ahmed: 72 per cent  
Fallata: 83 per cent

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# Govt. won't tolerate provocative activity

Premier stresses dialogue; regrets meetings

KUWAIT, Jan 29. (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today stressed that dialogue was the sole means for settling national issues, indicating the government was exploring ideal means for people's participation that will keep away passive outcomes which hampered parliamentary life in the country.

Sheikh Saad's remarks came during a meeting he held with editors-in-chief of local newspapers.

Sheikh Saad explained the circumstances which forced the Amir to disband the former National Assembly after parliamentary practices threatened to dismantle the country's national unity and stirred up discord among the community and almost impeded the functioning of all the state's executive bodies.

He reviewed the incessant efforts of the Amir to overcome a crisis that threatened continuity of parliamentary life as well as his own efforts in this direction to boost fraternity and positive co-operation in the interest of the country.

Sheikh Saad referred to repeated meetings which took place since the dissolution of National Assembly, saying: "Regrettably in those meetings some echoed exaggerations which the authority tackled with tolerance and the spirit of the one family in the hope that those behind it would realise the unacceptability of such a style and to pursue a method that suits the nature of our society."

The government had exercised wisdom and patience in dealing with the issue of those gatherings which of late became provocative and took up the issue outside the framework of the Kuwaiti family in addition to other acts which proved that some were aimed at certain ends beyond the issue of parliamentary life, exposing the security and stability of the country to danger and threatened our national unity," Sheikh Saad said.

Sheikh Saad regretted continuation of such attitudes particularly after the call by the Amir for dialogue and consultations in the interest of the country.

Sheikh Saad told the meeting that the doors of dialogue would remain open for all till an appropriate formula that will meet the national aspirations and overstep the shortcomings of the previous experiences is accomplished.

Sheikh Saad called for joining efforts and provision of positive atmosphere to make a success of dialogue through adherence to responsibility and wisdom taking into consideration the country's higher interest.

Replying to a question on allegations by foreign media that the former assembly was dissolved under foreign pressure, Sheikh Saad stressed the independence of the Kuwaiti national decision, saying "we do not bow or take instructions from any foreign quarter."

On press censorship, Sheikh Saad reiterated that the issue would be reconsidered.

Their fears have been deepened by a recent statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel must retain the West Bank and Gaza to settle Soviet Jews.

The United Arab Emirates' newspaper Al Bayan quoted Farouk Kadoumi, head of the PLO's political department, as saying Arab foreign ministers will meet next Monday in the Tunisian capital Tunis. He said their subject will be whether to approach Soviet and East European officials to stop their Jews from going to Israel.

Presently about 70,000 Jews live in more than 120 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. Some 12,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel last year, but Israeli officials expect the annual volume to soar to 100,000 in the next few years.

Saddam told reporters in Cairo, "this matter involves plain and serious harm to the Arabs generally and the Palestinians in particular. We regard the United States as a participant in this immigration because of its policies."

(See Pages 9 and 11)

He stressed that the search for a new formula for parliamentary life should be carried out in a quiet and rational atmosphere characterised with wisdom, responsibility and objectivity within the framework of the principles stipulated in the recent address by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah in which he expressed his keenness on broadening the base of consultation, parliamentary life and people's participation.

The Crown Prince underscored that national interest necessitates not to expose the country anew to the same circumstances which led to the failure of the previous parliamentary experience.



Honecker arrested, faces trial

East Germany's disgraced former leader Erich Honecker, his erstwhile security police boss and close politburo associates will stand trial for treason in March, the prosecutor-general said yesterday.

Hans-Joerg Joseph, in a televised speech to parliament unveiled the extent of criminal inquiries

into what he called "indescribable arrogance of power," said the four former politburo titans would be tried before the Supreme Court.

East German police arrested Honecker yesterday on his release from an East Berlin hospital, where he had undergone surgery to have a malignant kidney tumour removed.



Honecker's doctor protested the arrest, claiming the former leader was not fit to be tried. Honecker and his wife left the hospital holding hands (left); but was taken away by security men (centre) after a parting kiss (right). (Reuter wirephoto)

(See Page 7)

## Rivals to hold peace talks

## US to close 69 bases

14 overseas stations included

WASHINGTON, Jan 29. (Reuters): Defense Secretary Dick Cheney proposed today to close or cut operations at 69 US military bases, including 14 overseas, in anticipation of major troop cuts over the next five years.

Foreign bases would be closed in Italy, Turkey, Greece, and Royal Air Force Wethersfield in Britain. The Nea Makri Naval Communication Station and the Hellenic Air Base in Greece, Comiso Air Base in Italy, Kwang Ju Air Base, Suwon Air Base and Taegu Air Base in South Korea, Erhart Air Base and Esenboga Communications storage site in Turkey and Zweibruecken Air Base in West Germany.

In addition, the US Navy would cut operations at Bermuda naval station and realign forces at San Miguel naval communications station in the Philippines.

The proposal is expected to come

### No tax raise

## US budget

WASHINGTON, Jan 29. (Reuters): President George Bush sent to Congress today a proposed \$1.2 trillion budget for 1991, in which he calls for lowering the US deficit to \$63.1 billion without raising taxes.

The budget plan includes a \$306.9 billion authorisation for defence, slightly higher than the \$301.6 billion authorised for the current fiscal 1990, but about two per cent less than the rate of inflation.

The proposed spending represents a three per cent increase over 1990 spending. But the fiscal 1991 spending rise would be offset by a nine per cent increase in revenues. (See Page 14)

under heavy fire on Capitol Hill, where members of Congress have called for deep defence cuts — but not in their home districts, where military installations are a boon to local economies.

Legislators have pressed for inclusion of overseas bases in any future cuts.

"The Defense Department is determined to sustain a strong, forward-deployed military presence overseas, but global and regional trends make it possible for us to adjust some of our overseas facilities, in consultation with our allies," Cheney said.

Domestic closings would affect bases in Michigan, California, Ohio, Missouri, Indiana, Kansas, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Arkansas, South Carolina, Alabama and New York.

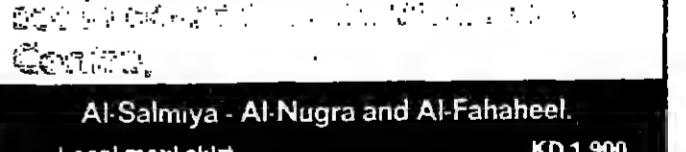
The domestic cuts appear to hit hardest in California, where 11 bases were listed for possible closing, including Fort Ord.

(See Page 6)

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## ARAB TIMES

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# Pledges fail to stem Indo-Pak war fears

ISLAMABAD, Jan 29. (Reuters): Pledges by Pakistan and India that they do not want a crisis over a Muslim revolt in Kashmir to slide into war have failed to halt anxiety in the Pakistani capital about a possible clash.

Both sides took steps at the weekend to underline their desire to settle the emotive Kashmir issue peacefully, but the talk of war has sparked concern among diplomats.

Indian Foreign Minister Inder

Gujral said unequivocally at the weekend that India did not want a third war with Pakistan over Kashmir.

His Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan repeated the sentiment in a briefing for a group of Pakistani reporters on Sunday after returning from talks in New Delhi.

"Both governments are weak and I think there is a real danger that they will be pushed into an escalating cycle of

rhetoric," one senior Western diplomat said.

"I feel it alarming that the talk of war has become current in the press and in private discussions with Pakistanis," he said.

It is a very difficult and tragic convergence of factors," said an Indian source who asked not to be named. "I hope that we can keep it under control. It could, to use Yaqub Khan's words, have pernicious implications."

Ties have chilled dramatically in the past month as deaths have mounted in the Kashmir valley, ruled by India. More than 60 died last week in violent anti-Indian protests that New Delhi accuses Pakistan of fomenting.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, recovering in hospital from the birth of her second child, denied Pakistani responsibility but angered New Delhi by insisting the issue be settled by a plebiscite under the United Nations.

Diplomats agree there is no immediate danger of conflict but said minority governments in both Islamabad and New Delhi could bow to vociferous public opinion.

Much depends on whether Pakistan's opposition parties try to use Kashmir as a weapon to whip up popular emotions against Benazir, said one Western diplomat.

Indian High Commissioner Jyoti Nath Dixit acknowledged the anxi-

ties in an interview but said India did not want war.

"I am concerned, and we feel that every effort should be made by both sides to defuse the situation and to keep the dialogue and the lines of communication open," he said.

Western diplomats believe some weapons are smuggled across the 1,400-km (870-mile) ceasefire line that divides Indian-ruled Jammu and Kashmir state from Pakistan's Azad Kashmir.

# Long march to boost morale

DHAKA, Jan 29. (UPI): About 20,000 Communist Party activists converged on the capital yesterday to cap a three-week march aimed at restoring party morale, which has sagged badly since the recent setback to socialism in Europe.

The CPY undertook the long march from various corners of the country to refurbish party activity and lift spirits of disappointed party cadres.

The main slogan of the march, "I will cast my vote for the candidate of my choice," apparently was intended to unite the opposition movement behind calls for fair polls under a neutral government.

Recent Bangladeshi election campaigns were marred by spotty participation and charges that the government of President Hussain Muhammad Ershad rigged the balloting.

Addressing the rally, Communist Party general secretary Sufiuddin Ahmed Manik referred to the changes sweeping the communist world but said there was no reason to think that socialism was being abolished in the world.

Rather, he said, reforms are taking place to strengthen the existing socialist system in Eastern European countries, the pro-Soviet leader told his party workers.

Manik said capitalism never will be an alternative to socialism anywhere in the world.

Rescuers searching for more than 100 people missing after a ferry collision on a southern Bangladeshi river found 13 bodies trapped in the sunken hull, officials said.

The victims, 12 of whom were women, were discovered when a salvage vessel hoisted the ferry from the Loharia river near Patukhali town, officials said.

The ferry sank with about 200 passengers on board after being in collision with another vessel on Sunday. Some passengers swam ashore but more than 100 were feared drowned in the strong currents, a town official told reporters.

Bangladesh a country chronically prone to famine, has built up a reserve of 1.38 million tonnes of grain to meet emergencies and stabilise prices, a senior minister said today.

The country's five major silos and 2,695 warehouses were full and it needed more warehouses to hold another 0.5 million tonnes, Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hossain told Parliament.

Bangladesh has had a bumper rice crop and has more food in reserve than ever before, Food Ministry officials said. The reserves were below one million tonnes a year ago.

Bangladesh expects food grain production will reach 19 million tonnes in the year up to June 1990 and hopes to raise that to 20 million tonnes by 1992.

# Pakistan bomb blasts hurt 11

PESHAWAR, Jan 29. (Reuters): Three bombs exploded in two Pakistani cities today, injuring 11 people, police said.

There were no claims of responsibility for the blasts. One occurred in the port city of Karachi, injuring seven people, and two in the provincial capital of Peshawar near the Northwest Frontier.

A bomb in a Peshawar air force cinema injured four people, and another exploded in a hotel toilet but nobody was hurt, police said.

In the past, Pakistani authorities have blamed the Soviet-backed government in neighbouring Afghanistan for bomb attacks that have killed more than 300 people since 1987. The main Afghan rebel groups are based in Peshawar.

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# Raid in Quezon City nets rebel general

Philippine military goes on full alert

MANILA, Jan 29. (Agencies): Troops today captured Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, a leader in last month's coup attempt, and two of his aides in a raid in suburban Quezon City, the military said.

Troops of the national capital region defence command swooped in on his hideout at 2 am, the military said. Abenina surrendered peacefully after he jumped a fence and hurt his leg, it said.

Arrested with Abenina were constabulary Maj. Napoleon Castro and Capt. Artemio Moises. A limping Abenina, wearing slippers, T-shirt and jeans, appeared at a news conference called by armed forces

chief Gen. Renato de Villa but Abenina declined to speak to reporters. De Villa said the arrest of Abenina, who had a government bounty of one million pesos (\$45,000) offered for his capture, was in the blow" to some 1,000 mutineers still at large and are regrouping to mount another uprising against President Corazon Aquino.

De Villa said the county will go to an unnamed civilian informer. At her weekly news conference, Aquino said she was pleased with Abenina's arrest. Aquino said she had directed the military to "exert all effort" in capturing renegade soldiers.

# Azeris maintain rail blockade

Negotiations in Riga

(Continued from Page 1)

The agency said 188 goods trains with supplies for Armenia — one of the Soviet Union's most important industrial areas — were prevented by nationalists from travelling across neighbouring Azerbaijan from the vital Caspian Sea port and railhead at Baku.

"The (Armenian) government has ordered limited use of energy at every enterprise and television transmissions have been cut," Tass said today.

Armenia is "geographically isolated by the Caucasus and receives almost all its supplies by rail across Azerbaijan from the east. The railroad west through Georgia carried very little because of the difficult terrain.

The Armenian earthquake of 1988, ethnic troubles and strikes have all contributed to the weakening of the Armenian — and Soviet — economy. The region is a centre for the production of chemicals, automobiles, motor tyres, farm machinery, electronics and lifts.

Armenia depends totally upon imported fuel and imports much of its staple food — milk, meat, sugar, butter and fish.

The Azerbaijani and Armenian have been locked in ethnic disputes and violence for more than two years. About 24,000 Soviet Red Army and Interior Ministry special troops were sent into Azerbaijan ten days ago to halt spiralling bloodshed but ran

# Indian troops leave Jaffna

COLOMBO, Jan 29. (AP): Indian troops have pulled out of Jaffna, leaving the northern town to the Tamil Tiger guerrillas they fought for more than two years, residents and officials said yesterday.

The Indian troops, who are scheduled to complete their withdrawal from Sri Lanka by the end of March, evacuated Jaffna late Saturday and pitched camps at an airfield and coastal villages about 16 km (10 miles) away, residents said by telephone.

The unannounced evacuation caught many people by surprise when they woke up Sunday morning and realised the Indian troops were gone.

"We saw the Tiger flag fluttering all over the town and shops were open, traffic was abnormally active and people were thronging the roads," one resident said on condition of not being identified.

Jaffna, 300 km (186 miles) northeast of Colombo, was the heart of a Tamil separatist revolt that erupted in 1983 against the Sinhalese ethnic majority that dominates the Sri Lankan government and armed forces.

When the Sri Lankan government failed to quell the insurrection, it enlisted Indian help.

The Sri Lankan government started negotiating with the Tigers to give them a political role in the Indian in which he said the coup participants wanted to eliminate government corruption and usher in broad social, economic and political reforms.

"The Aquino government has failed," Abenina said in the letter. "It has failed to govern and ensure the safety and well-being of its citizens. We need a government that reflects our virtues."

Earlier this month, Sen. Joseph Estrada released a letter to Abenina in which he said the coup participants wanted to eliminate government corruption and usher in broad social, economic and political reforms.

Small groups of armed Tigers, often referred to as Jaffna residents as "our boys," moved openly in the centre of town Sunday, police said.

"They must have died in the blast or jumped off the ship," a police official said.

Search for 7

BOMBAY, Jan 29. (Reuters): Rescue teams from Bombay port and coast-guards were continuing a search for seven workers who have been missing in the Arabian Sea for the past six days following an explosion aboard a ship, police said today.

Police said the seven were presumed dead in an explosion which ripped through the front portion of the tanker Jag Laxmi, anchored off Bombay harbour for repairs.

"They must have died in the blast or jumped off the ship," a police official said.

Professor Basil Al Nakh

Specialist, Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology announces the opening of his private clinic.

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Indonesia flood toll rises

The death count from floods and accompanying landslides in central Java reached 177 yesterday as a government official blamed the high toll on poor building practices and an inadequate warning system.

The toll grew as rescue officials recovered more bodies from mud and debris in Semarang, about 250 miles (400

km) east of Jakarta, where the flooding began early Friday morning with the overflows of Banjar Kanal and Kaligaring rivers, the official news agency Antara said.

A man collecting his belongings from his home, destroyed by floods in Semarang. (Reuters wirephoto)

# Misuari denies killings

Election chief's car set ablaze

# Filipino tribes vote

JEDDAH, Jan 29. (AP): Filipino Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari today denied claims by the Manila government that the Muslims in the Mindanao region were killing Christians.

Misuari, head of the Moro National Liberation Front, charged that reports to the effect were being circulated by Manila as part of "a naked policy of divide and rule."

Muslims and Christian are wise and will not allow the government propaganda to succeed," said Misuari in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

The car of Felimon Asperin, the election chief in the northern provinces of the Philippine island of Luzon, exploded after the car set fire to its petrol tank, police said. No one was hurt.

No group has claimed responsibility, but Asperin said he believed voting on Tuesday on an autonomy plan drafted by the government for mountain tribes in the area prompted the attack.

It was the second violent incident to mar the run-up to the voting.

The son of Congressman William Claver in nearby Kalanga-Apayao was killed on Jan 22 in an ambush after campaigning for approval of the autonomy plan.

More than 500,000 people were registered to vote in the plebiscite in five provinces and a city in the mineral-rich Cordillera mountains. Two major tribes oppose the autonomy plan.

A group led by Conrado Balweg, a former priest and communist rebel commander, is campaigning against the plan.

Misuari warned that fighting would further escalate unless the government forces who are doing so.

"In fact," he added, "we are in alliance with the Christian organisation Mindanao Independence Movement and if any Christians were killed, it was because of the fighting provoked by the government forces."

Misuari, who saw no prospect of short-term peace, said fighting has escalated in various parts of the Mindanao. "Fighting broke out in Cotabato, Lanao, Basilan and other provinces. It has even reached Balikid, which is outside the 13 Muslim-dominated provinces," he said.

Misuari charged Aquino with falsifying the outcome of the plebiscite in provinces where people rejected his limited self-government proposal through the so-called organic act. "How can we now have the guts to continue with autonomy plans when the majority of the people said 'no' to her? And how can we expect to have peace under these circumstances?" Misuari questioned.

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# Indian troops open fire on Kashmir protesters, one dies

and wounding two, police sources said.

The incident took place as Muslims went from door to door in Srinagar telling their Hindu and Sikh neighbours that they would not become targets of sectarian violence.

The curfew was lifted for seven hours, security patrols were smaller, buses and three-wheeler taxis returned to the streets, shops opened and Kashmiris came out to restock their larders.

Monday's casualties were caused when security forces trying to disperse an angry crowd opened fire in a village near Srinagar.

Meanwhile, Indian security forces opened fire on anti-India protesters today, killing one man

and wounding two, police sources said.

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## INTERNATIONAL

## Soviet air lessons from space

MOSCOW, Jan 29, (UPI): Soviet cosmonauts yesterday honoured US astronaut Christa McAuliffe, broadcasting the lessons from space she dreamed of doing.

"This lesson is like passing the torch from the American schoolteacher to the Soviet cosmonauts," Vladimir Solov'ev, MIR mission control director, said today.

McAuliffe, a New Hampshire teacher turned space traveller, died four years ago with six other US astronauts in the Challenger explosion of Jan 28, 1986.

19. (UPI): After Party action capital yesterday, a march aimed at morale, which the recent in Europe, took the last corners of disappointed

But her dream came true yesterday when Soviet teachers and children, selected from all over the Soviet Union in a nationwide competition with a space mission, gathered at the MIR (peace) mission control centre near Moscow.

"These lessons should become a regular thing throughout the academic year," Anatoly Popovsky, veteran space correspondent of Pravda newspaper, said.

The children are overwhelmed by what they saw yesterday and many correspondents as well," Popovsky said.

They heard current MIR space station Commander Alexander Viktoreiko appear on a screen from thousands of miles above the earth to announce the beginning of a series of lessons for Soviet kids.

The space lesson was another effort by Soviet space authorities to make amends for the pettiness and rudeness of the Leonid Brezhnev era when the Soviets blacked out the landing of US astronaut Neil Armstrong on the moon and broad-

cast a musical show instead.

In the space lesson, Viktoreiko told listeners about new space suits the Soviets are developing for space walks and his second crew member Alexander Serebrov, who gave four lessons from space last year, explained the Soviet life-support systems.

Funeral services were held for Edward C. Corrigan on the fourth anniversary of the challenger explosion that killed his daughter, McAuliffe.

## Impact of Truth TV on Italy society

ROME, Jan 29, (AP): Desperate pleas of a family trying to locate a runaway child, shocking closeups of a drug addict shooting up with heroin, explicit recreations of a brutal murder.

It is called "Television-Verità" or Truth TV, and is challenging the stuffy variety show in the ratings on Italy's public and private television networks.

On one hand, media experts say, the change reflects Italians' love of intrigue and their increasing openness to discuss their private lives and problems with others.

"These programmes are coherent with the Italian tradition of a very gossipy society," said University of Rome sociologist Franco Ferrarotti.

They also have signalled a new relationship between state television and the Italian public, which is generally alienated from government institutions and bureaucracy.

"Until recently TV was a major pillar of the establishment," Ferrarotti said, in an interview. "These programmes would have been considered scandalous, even blasphemous. The official TV is finally moving into the sphere of private Italian life."

The explosion of Truth TV has improved ratings but also raised ethical questions about invasion of privacy and the use of dramatic reconstructions and anonymous telephone calls.

Corriere Della Sera's TV columnist Oreste Del Buono has been a leading critic of the shows, saying networks are taking too many risks with live broadcasts, anonymous callers and crime shows which focus on "poor people, without lawyers, treated like animals."

The shows are also a product of the intense competition between the state-run RAI network and the three major private stations of Silvio Berlusconi. Most of the Truth TV programmes are on RAI, which exploits its monopoly on live broadcasting.

Truth TV relies heavily on phone calls from the public, adding to the drama and immediacy of the broadcast but also creating potential risks.

**Dangerous**

On one recent weekday afternoon, actress Sandra Milo was hosting a new live talk show "L'Amore e Una Cosa Meravigliosa" (love is a wonderful thing) on RAI when a woman called in and said, "Sandra, what are you doing there while your son is seriously injured in the hospital?"

To the horror of a nationwide audience of some 3 million people, Ms. Milo burst into sobs, ran off the set and fainted in her dressing room. The call turned out to be a hoax as her son, Ciro, was tracked down at the home of a friend.

RAI said it would tighten controls on phone calls to live shows, but some commentators said viewers would no longer trust anonymous callers.

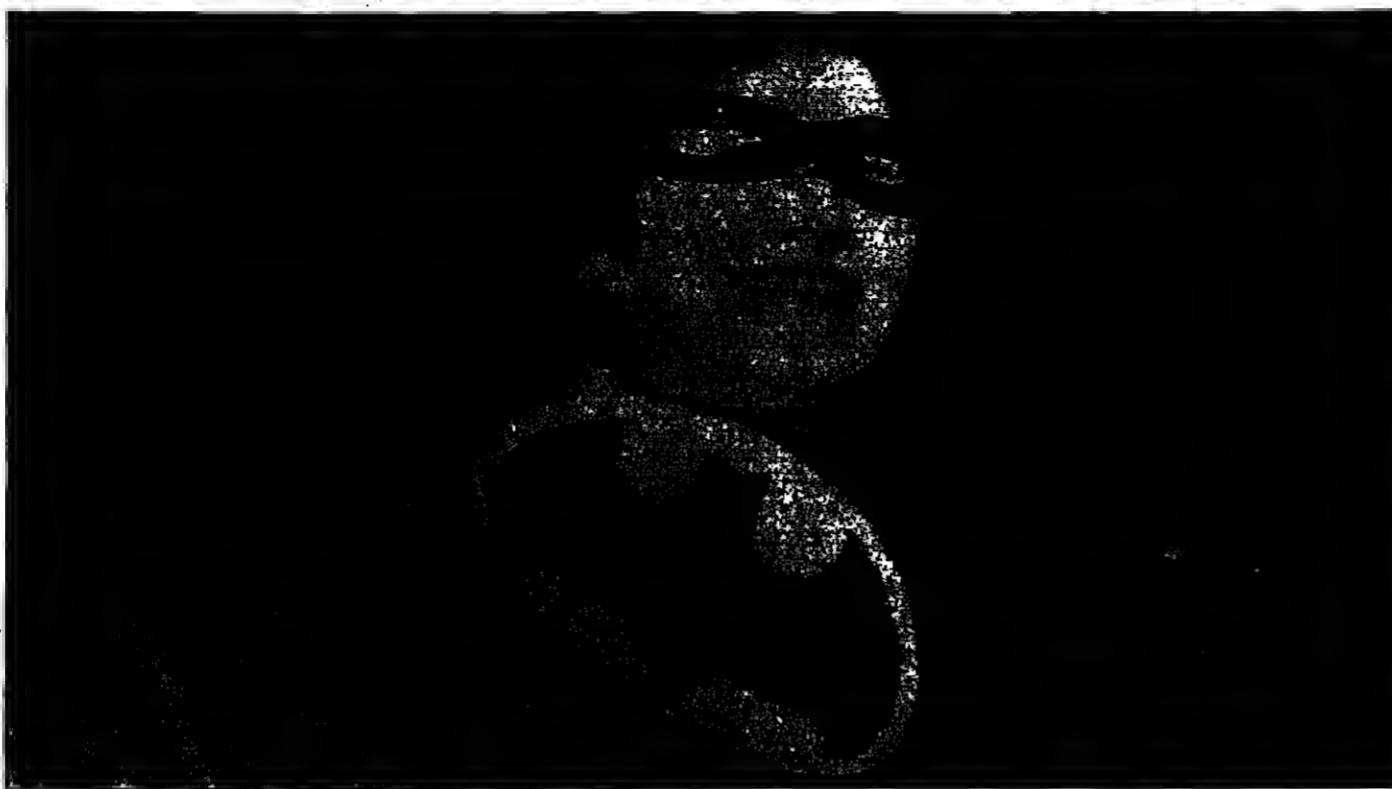
"This incident signals a critical moment in the history of Truth Television," wrote best-selling novelist Umberto Eco in a column in L'Espresso magazine.

"It's certain that from this moment the public will become more suspicious and many programmes will suffer from a crisis of credibility."

That hasn't seemed to be the case so far with the most popular of the new genre, "Chi L'ha Visto?" a show on missing persons which attracts more than 5 million viewers on Sunday nights.

The live, three-hour RAI programme uses elaborate recreations tracing missing persons' lives and last known movements, retouched photos showing how their appearances could have changed, interviews with their families and calls from viewers around the country who may have spotted them.

The inaugural show last year caused a stir when it examined the disappearance of a woman, a US sailor, from a military base in Naples. It included a re-creation suggesting the woman had been murdered after a sexual tryst with two American male sailors.



Doi appears as Batman

Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Chairwoman Takako Doi dons the mask and cowl of the famed crusader Batman at a rally on Jan 27 in support of JSP candidates running in the Feb 18 House of Representatives elections. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Nova lingo

French

LOS ANGELES: There is no truth to the rumour that Michael Jackson's chimpanzee Bubbles has died, Jackson's publicist announced.

"Like Mark Twain, his death is grossly exaggerated and he's alive and doing well," publicist Lee Solters said.

A fire in Jackson's Santa Barbara menagerie last month destroyed a giraffe barn, but the animals were evacuated safely. Jackson's private zoo includes ostriches, llamas and two constrictors. (AP)

HOUGHTON, Michigan: Nearly 15 feet (4.57 metres) of snow has fallen in northern Michigan's Keweenaw peninsula so far this winter, but a Chicago mall is eager to take the flakes.

The Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce on Friday trucked nine crates of its upper peninsula snow to Chicago's North Pier Mall.

Elizabeth Lee, who owns a store in the mall, said the shopping area has planned a winter festival since July. Snow sculptures from China, Italy and Germany were due to arrive this week. But there was no snow for them to mold.

A newspaper advertisement led Lee to the upper peninsula, where Lake Superior Moisture has helped dump plenty of snow this winter.

The French may also lace their speech with le despozo, le derrick, le derby, le dancing et le dead-beat.

The academic said the latest section of its dictionary also included words from Hungarian, Welsh, Sanskrit and Tibetan among other languages.

"Nah, come on, it's acting guys. It really truly really is," she told reporters. "It's fun to be able to play these women with this wonderful range of emotions and intelligence. I'd like to do. But it's acting. It's just fun. I'm really not like that."

The play began a two-week run Tuesday at Pittsburgh's Benedum Centre. After that, it goes to Boston, Philadelphia and then Broadway.

Miss Turner said she always had intended to portray Magda, a beautiful countess who has a plan for a husband who shuns her.

Appearing with Miss Turner are Charles Durning, Polly Holliday and Daniel Hugh Kelly.

The production is nothing like the 1958 film with Elizabeth Taylor, Paul Newman and Elizabeth Taylor.

Miss Turner, 35, started in theatre but movies made her a star. Her credits include Body Heat, Remington Steele, Prizzi's Honor, Peggy Sue Got Married, The Accidental Tourist, and The War of the Roses. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania: Former mayor Frank Rizzo wanted Sylvester Stallone on his radio show, so an on-air phone call seemed the next best thing to interviewing the Rocky star in person.

It also turned out to be the next best thing to actually talking with Stallone, because the caller was an impostor.

"He really sounded like

Stallone," Rizzo said of Dennis Malley, WSNH-FM disc jockey.

Rizzo, whose programme is on radio station WCAU-AM, had reason to expect a call from Stallone because the mayor had seen the actor at dinner and asked him to go on the programme.

On Friday, two days later, the mayor got the call, but from Malley. Rizzo spent six minutes asking him about Rocky V, which is being filmed in Philadelphia.

Rizzo was not bothered by the hoax. "I enjoyed it," he said. (AP)

SANTA ROSA, California: Filmmaker from Ford Coppola and one of his film partners sought bankruptcy protection from creditors, but his financing of the third Godfather movie continued in Rome.

Coppola and Zestree Productions filed separately Thursday in US bankruptcy court in Santa Rosa under Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Act. That allows them freedom from creditors' lawsuits while they try to work out a repayment plan.

Zestree issued a statement saying the filings were intended to provide protection from continued legal wrangling that began during production of Coppola's 1981 film One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, a \$25 million picture that drew just \$1 million at the box office.

The filings were made while Coppola was in Rome, directing "The Godfather Part III" for Paramount Pictures. The \$40

## Ava fans flock to pay last homage

SMITHFIELD, North Carolina: Fans of Ava Gardner packed the cemetery where the actress was to be buried, causing workers to postpone digging her grave, police said.

Gardner, 67, who died of pneumonia in London Thursday, was born and raised on a tobacco farm in Johnston County near Smithfield. She was to be buried next to her brother, Jack Gardner, a former state legislator, and her parents, Jonas and Mary Elizabeth Gardner.

The cemetery was packed yesterday, police dispatcher Tommey Ward said today. "There were so many people, the grave diggers had to stop their work. They finally finished the grave about 11 last night."

Extra police officers were on duty today as well as some Johnston county deputy sheriffs, Ward said.

"We're taking extra precautions because of the funeral. We'll block off the area at 10 this morning," Ward said.

The public had been invited to visit the woodland funeral home yesterday to pay their respects.

"At 2 o'clock, there were 1,900 names on the register and another 100 people were in line to go into the funeral home," Ward said.

Gardner was a dark-haired, green-eyed beauty who had three ill-fated celebrity marriages and starred opposite some of the movie industry's leading men.

Gardner was a Hollywood starlet in 1942 when she married actor Mickey Rooney, the first of her marriages destined to end in divorce.

She changed her mind and decided to try an acting career when her brother-in-law, a photographer, sent her picture to MGM Studios.

Gardner was a Hollywood starlet in 1942 when she married actor Mickey Rooney, the first of her marriages destined to end in divorce.

The marriage to Rooney lasted a year, as did her marriage to band leader Artie Shaw, which ended in 1946. Her third and last marriage to singer and actor Frank Sinatra in 1951 ended in divorce six years later.

## It's human error, probbers suspect

## Fuel shortage call ignored

MELVILLE, New York, Jan 29, (UPI): Federal authorities investigated the possibility that human error may have been responsible for the crash of Avianca Flight 052, and a government official said it was "almost certain" air traffic controllers failed to relay critical information the jetliner was running low on fuel.

Crew members reported that the jetliner was low on fuel about 50 minutes before the plane crashed into a Long Island hillside last week, but the crucial message was not received by the controllers who could have arranged an immediate landing, officials said yesterday.

The message to the New York control centre, which handles general cruising traffic in the area, also should have been received by controllers at the terminal radar centre, who handle all approaches to Kennedy international airport, national transportation safety board member Lee Dickinson said.

Dickinson, speaking last night at an NTSB news conference, would not say whether he believed human error was responsible for Thursday night's crash, but another government official who requested anonymity said it appeared "almost certain" that the New York control centre did not pass off the information regarding the fuel shortage to the terminal radar centre.

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Dickinson, speaking last night at an NTSB news

## Opinion divided on offer by cartel

BOGOTA, Jan. 29, (AP): Colombian President Virgilio Barco is sending mixed signals in response to peace overtures by the Medellin cocaine cartel, a policy some view as a deliberate tactic.

While some see Barco's response as evidence he is ready to negotiate, others say the president is trying to lure the drug traders into unilateral concessions while pressing forward with his campaign to defeat them.

"Barco is purposefully being as enigmatic as possible in order to raise the hopes of the traffickers, who are desperate at this point," said Maria Elvira Samper, managing editor of the Colombian weekly magazine Semana.

She added, "he wants to see what they will give up voluntarily."

The traffickers, however, have no intention of surrendering, but are secretly trying to gain support and sympathy among Colombians, she said.

**Defeated**  
On Jan 17, the cartel said it had been defeated by a 5-month-old crackdown in which authorities extradited 13 suspects to the United States, killed a major trafficker in a gun battle and confiscated hundreds of properties.

The cartel offered to abandon the cocaine trade and lay down arms to exchange for constitutional and legal protections. It did not specify any assurances, but an end to extradition has always led its list of demands.

The traffickers had resisted the government crackdown with a terror campaign of bombings and other terrorist violence that has killed 209 people.

But they said in their communiqué that they were calling a unilateral ceasefire and would release all of their hostages.

Since then, there have been no terrorist bombings, and traffickers have freed five of their 21 captives.

Barco said the cartel's offer had created a new situation and that the law "offered alternatives" for addressing the issue.

The president expressed a willingness for flexibility in connection with his drug policy, writing in a letter to the newspaper *El Tiempo*, two days after the traffickers' offer.

On another occasion, church and political leaders published an open letter Jan 15 proposing "less rigorous treatment" of the traffickers only if they ended their terror campaign.

Barco called the statement a patriotic act.

With such statements issuing from the president's office, some have criticised Barco as a weak and blundering politician, easily manipulated by certain advisers.

### Concern

This camp has often expressed concern that Barco may be swayed by certain aides who feel a dialogue with the traffickers is politically advisable.

Another group, including the editor Samper, view Barco as a determined and savvy president, who uses vague pronouncements to walk a tightrope between officials who deal with drug lords and those who oppose any dialogue.

"He may hint that he is open to negotiations to placate some of the people close to him," Samper said.

She contended that Barco will fight the drug traffickers until the end of his rule in August, resorting to every weapon in his arsenal, including extradition.

Those Colombians like Samper who believe the president has no intention of abandoning extradition point to repeated declarations by Interior Minister Carlos Lemus Simmonds that the policy is non-negotiable.

## Drug flow to increase

BANGKOK, Jan. 29, (Reuter): Thai narcotics experts said today they expected a wave of illicit heroin to flow from the Golden Triangle this year after bumper harvests of opium poppy in 1989.

But they said efforts by security forces to block routes across Thailand would push more of the smugglers into using less direct ways through India, China and Vietnam to the lucrative North American and European markets.

Although estimates of the secret production are vague, an official of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) said the 1989 opium production to be up to 2,200 tonnes.

This was just over double the total estimated for 1988, before internal strife in Burma diverted the attention of the security forces away from anti-narcotic work.



Castro gestures during the workers' congress. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Castro holds firm to communist line

**'No liberalisation even if we lose Soviet aid'**

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 29, (AP): Cuban President Fidel Castro, in a major statement on the reforms sweeping the East bloc, said his nation will adhere to Communism even if the Soviet Union cuts off all support.

"The Yankees are euphoric because they believe we will be isolated and cannot resist. There are even some who have virtually extended condolences because they believe the revolution will not survive the changes in the Socialist bloc," Castro was quoted as saying in the speech to 2,500 delegates at the annual congress of Cuba's labour federation.

Castro also said he would accept no political liberalisation, rejecting a petition for recognition from an opposition party.

"The revolution will not back down one millimetre, not even if it is totally blockaded by the United States or if the Soviet Union totally cuts its supplies," said Castro.

"We have prepared ourselves to engage in the struggle by all the people in defense of socialism," he said, warning that Cubans may have to tighten their belts and live "at peace but under a wartime economy."

It was the first time Castro had suggested that the Soviet Union may be cutting down on aid that has subsidised his revolution.

For instance, virtually all of Cuba's crude oil comes from the Soviet Union.

"It will not be here the history of other countries will be able to repeat itself, and those who want to play at counterrevolution are going to have to face the people," said Castro in reference to the overthrow of governments in Eastern Europe.

Castro, who seized power 31 years ago after ousting dictator Fulgencio Batista, has resisted urgings from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and others to liberalise his government.

His power base was narrowed last year when several high-ranking military and security officers were executed in a drug smuggling scandal that forced him to reorganise his cabinet and Cuba's security apparatus.

The United States imposed a trade and financial embargo on Cuba more than 20 years ago, accusing the island nation's government of inciting violent revolution in other nations.

At the close of his speech, delegates chorused the traditional Cuban revolution slogan: "Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we shall vanquish."

Castro also confirmed reports that his government had rejected a petition from the Miami-based leadership of the Christian Democratic Party to be given legal status and allowed to take part in politics.

"The secret of Cuban resistance in these 30 years of revolution has been the unity of the government, the people and the party, and a multi-party system would only result in internal weakening," Castro was quoted as saying.

Castro said Latin America is "very worried by the situation Cuba faces, because they know that if the revolution falls it would drag down with it the independence and liberty of these nations against the advance of imperialism."

## Colombian drug buyers 'not paying up': Bolivians going on their own

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia, Jan. 29, (AP): Local drug traffickers are loosening their ties to the powerful but besieged Colombian cartels and are refining and smuggling more cocaine on their own, according to anti-narcotics officials.

The Colombians, caught up in a bloody war on drugs launched by that country's government, are reportedly becoming bad business partners. Since late August, when the Colombian offensive began, they often have failed to show up for deals and to make promised payments for wholesale purchases from Bolivian sellers, the officials say.

The Colombian buyers "are not paying up," Gen. Lucio Añez, commander of Bolivia's 1,040-man anti-narcotics police force, told the Associated Press in an interview in Santa Cruz. "They've got debts in arrears."

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Santa Cruz, a bustling tropical city 570 kilometres (355 miles) east of La Paz, is a centre for trafficking and a frequent calling point for the Colombian wholesale buyers.

With the buyers now less dependable, the Bolivians evidently are doing more refining on their own. "There is an increase in processing," Añez said. "We're seizing more (refined) drug."

According to statistics prepared by the US embassy in Bolivia, 1,040 kilograms (2,288 pounds) of refined cocaine hydrochloride were

## Pope stress on dialogue

### Help Sahel appeal

OUAGADOUGOU, Jan. 29, (Agencies): Pope John Paul II arrived in Burkina Faso today to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of his appeal for help for the drought-ridden Sahel region of continental Africa.

Burkina President Capt. Blaise Compaore greeted the Pope at Ouagadougou airport upon his arrival from Bamako, Mali, at 10:30 am (1030 GMT).

The government of Burkina Faso, which changed its name from Upper Volta in 1984, declared a national holiday today to mark the visit. Tens of thousands of people lined the streets leading to the airport, which was closed to the public for security reasons.

Organisers of the visit to Burkina Faso, the fourth stop of the papal tour of famine-ridden nations in west and central Africa, said the highlight was likely to be the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of John Paul's appeal for the Sahel region.

**Thanks**  
The appeal, made in Ouagadougou on May 10, 1980, led to the formation of the John Paul II foundation, which has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the drought-ridden region.

Upon his departure from predominantly Muslim Mali this morning, the pontiff praised "the climate of dialogue and healthy conviviality that reigns among the members of the different religions."

"Let me encourage you on the path of dialogue among believers, so that Malian citizens of all confessions get to know and appreciate one another better."

**Mali President Moussa Traore**, who issued 216 pardons to mark the papal visit, greeted John Paul on his arrival Sunday, calling his presence "an act of faith" reflecting a "determination to bring the people of the planet together." Traore thanked John Paul for supporting the "millions of people" who have suffered "through years" of drought and economic crisis.

**Friendship**  
The Pope said, "I hope that the dialogue between Muslims and Catholics improves even more and favours constructive co-operation."

John Paul said, "The ties of friendship between the two communities are a guarantee ... of the necessary harmony so that everyone can confront the country's problems together."

**Prayer**

In a second meeting with the people of Mali, the Pope asked a crowd of thousands in the square outside the Cathedral of Bamako to join him in prayer for the victims of the crash of an Avianca jetliner in New York last week and those who died during winter storms in northern Europe.

Earlier, the Pope visited the airport that he wanted "to meet the faithful from other religions" during his visit. "I do so in a spirit of dialogue, while I am pleased by the harmonious relations between traditional African religions, the Islamic community and Christians," he said.

About 80 per cent of Mali's population is Muslim compared with only about five per cent Catholic and 10 per cent of traditional African religions.

At a luncheon with the Mali bishops conference, the Pope urged representatives of the



Savimbi at a news conference. (Rauter wirephoto)  
**Savimbi seeks Santos meeting**

LISBON, Jan. 29, (Reuter): Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi called today on Marxist President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos to meet him face-to-face to try to end the 15-year-old civil war.

"It is very important for us to have this meeting, first of all to get to know each other, for we don't know each other well," he told reporters in Lisbon.

The two men met before African mediators in Zaire last June. But the two sides disagreed later about what had been agreed and the fighting has continued unabated.

The Zaire meeting enhanced Savimbi's diplomatic stature, encouraging Portugal, the former colonial power, to receive him for the first time since 1975.

The 35-year-old Unita leader arrived on Saturday for an eight-day visit. He said he would go on to Belgium, West Germany, Switzerland and possibly France.

The Cuban-backed government in Luanda denounced the visit today as the culmination of a vast publicity campaign by Portuguese conservatives.

A commentary by the official news agency Angop, monitored in Lisbon, pointedly expressed the hope that the visit would not harm Luanda's relations with the Portuguese government.

Dos Santos said earlier this month that he had no objection to Savimbi's visit as it was a private one.

The rebel leader has met President Mario Soares and Prime Minister António Cavaco Silva. The latter stressed that he received Savimbi in his capacity as leader of the ruling Social Democratic Party, not as head of government.

Cuba suspended the half-completed withdrawal of its 50,000 troops last week after four of them were killed in a Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) attack.

## Haitians fear reign of terror

PONT-AU-PRINCE, Jan. 29, (AP): Haitians were outraged in 1988 when state-sanctioned thugs beat a priest and killed 13 of his congregation. A coup ousted the ruling general and installed Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril as president.

Avril promised to end state-sponsored violence and establish real democracy in Haiti for the first time in its 186-year history.

Now, 16 months later, many Haitians are wondering whether Avril is leading them back into the morass of corruption, repression and fear they knew under his predecessor, the ousted Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, and during the 29-year reign of François "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son and successor, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc."

Over the past two weeks, soldiers have reportedly rounded up, arrested and brutalised a dozen political activists and forced at least seven into exile.

Declaring a 30-day "state of siege," Avril suspended four articles of the constitution and then imposed curfews on television and radio stations, the main source of news in a nation where 85 per cent of the population is illiterate.

The military government declared the state of siege Jan. 20, one day after gunmen killed an army colonel, his wife and their maid.

The clampdown, Avril said, was necessary "to protect democratic accomplishments against terrorism," implying that enemies of the government carried out the assassination.

Sceptics saw it, however, as a pretext for Avril to consolidate his power and renege on his promise to hold legitimate elections in October.

"The government will now either show its cards and demonstrate there will be no elections or have elections without the opposition's participation, with controlled candidates," said Paul Latorre, a Haitian economist at the University of Puerto Rico.



### Pope greets lepers

Pope John Paul greets lepers on a visit yesterday to the Cimura hospital in Guinea Bissau, one of Africa's leading leprosy hospital. During the visit the Pope called for international aid to wipe out the disease which afflicts about 15 million people world-wide. (Reuter wirephoto)

seized in 1989, compared to 206 kilograms (453 pounds) the previous year. Seizures of less-refined cocaine base dropped from 1,341 kilograms (2,950 pounds) to 915 kilograms (2,013 pounds).

Añez said his forces also had detected more Bolivian cocaine moving through alternate smuggling channels. "The routes have shifted a little toward Brazil and Argentina, in that order," he said.

He added: "I'm not trying to say that they've stopped shipping to Colombia," which remains the principal trading partner.

## INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1990

# Mandela could resume armed struggle

## Government considering relaxing three-year-old state of emergency

CAPE TOWN, Jan 29, (Reuter): Nelson Mandela would pick up the fight against white rule as commander of the African National Congress (ANC) military wing, if South Africa's government did not meet his conditions for release, a lawyer said today.

Veteran Cape Town activist and lawyer Dullah Omar visits Mandela regularly in his prison-farm bungalow northeast of Cape Town.

"Mandela says there is no point in releasing him if the ANC and other opposition groups remain banned, if the state of emergency remains in place and if political prisoners have not been released," Omar told Reuters.

"He has said in that event he would...pick up where he left off when he was arrested in 1962. At that time he was the commander in chief of Umkhonto We Sizwe (the ANC's armed wing, Spear of

The Nation)."

Omar spoke amid growing doubts that President F.W. de Klerk will live up to the high world-wide expectations for his crucial opening address to parliament on Friday.

De Klerk is expected to outline his political agenda in the speech, which is likely to be the most important since he took office in September and vowed to create a new South Africa with equal rights and opportunities for all.

Omar said Mandela, 71, had never spoken to him of armed struggle but had regularly spoken about picking up where he left off in 1962.

Mandela's wife Winnie said after visiting him on Saturday that the government was dragging its feet and it was too late for De Klerk to meet his demands before Friday.

"We are now talking about exerting pressure on the government and we thought we were past that stage," she said.

Cheryl Carolus, another Cape Town activist who has met Mandela in prison, said it was essential that Mandela should be able to operate freely and legally after his release.

"His freedom is inextricably bound up with the freedom of his people and his movement. It would be foolish to release him into a situation where he cannot take up his rightful place as leader of the ANC," she said.

De Klerk has promised to free Mandela soon from his life sentence for plotting against white rule but he has not set a date and he has not commented publicly on the conditions.

He is widely expected to meet some, though not

all, of Mandela's demands when he addresses parliament on Friday and be could free Mandela by the end of February.

Government sources said today De Klerk was considering relaxing three-year-old state of emergency regulations and lifting clamp on 34 anti-apartheid organisations, but not the immediate repeal of the 30-year-old ban on the ANC.

The sources said the cabinet would finalise the details of the speech and might set a firm date for Mandela's release when it met on Wednesday. They said De Klerk was unlikely to make the release date public.

Scores of reporters have arrived in South Africa to cover De Klerk's address, expecting him to make possibly the biggest concessions ever to the country's voiceless black majority.

# Cambodia civil war escalates

## Khmer remains brutal

KOMPONG SPEU, Cambodia, Jan 29, (UPI): Saw Soeun lay on a bare wooden pallet, her bullet-shattered leg in a sling, explaining how a Khmer Rouge guerrilla had surrounded a group of villagers collecting firewood.

"There was no warning. They said nothing. The (Khmer Rouge leader) Pol Pot troops just came and shot at us. Three of my friends were killed and four of us were wounded," she said.

Saw Soeun said the Khmer Rouge may have opened fire because the villagers have been reluctant to support the Khmer Rouge — widely hated because of their brutal years in power from 1975-1979.

The 38-year-old villager stoically answered questions about the shooting, but when asked about her six children, her voice quavered.

"They have to stay in the village. I don't know what will happen to them," she cried and broke down in sobs.

Like thousands of others, Saw Soeun is the victim of a conflict that has dragged on for 11 years and now is getting worse.

Vietnam announced the withdrawal of its last troops from Cambodia in September in response to Western pressure, but also with hopes the government it installed in Phnom Penh in 1979 would survive without the Vietnamese Army.

### Offensive

The three-party resistance coalition quickly launched an offensive that captured a 200-mile strip of territory along the Thai-Cambodian border and sent guerrilla forces deeper into the heart of the country.

At first the government denied its losses and tried to reclaim the lost territory, but this month admitted problems.

"Since Sept. 30, 1989, the enemies have launched adventurous large-scale attacks," Defence Minister Gen. Te Bakh said in an interview broadcast on television. He named a series of towns near the Thai border that had fallen to the resistance.

He admitted his forces were not able to repel the offensive.

Prime Minister Hun Sen called for increased military recruitment to face the mounting threat.

A series of bomb explosions in the capital and a Khmer Rouge attack on Battambang, the country's second largest city, added to the sense of deterioration in the government position.

"The resistance, particularly the two non-communist groups, have done better than expected," said a Western diplomat in Bangkok, Thailand. "Or maybe the Hun Sen forces are just weaker than we thought."

Intelligence sources put the government army at only about 50,000 men with another 100,000 to 150,000 in the ill-trained militia. Opposing them are about 60,000-70,000 resistance troops — about half from the tough and brutal Khmer Rouge.

In Phnom Penh, Khieu Kanharith, National Assembly Member and editor of the state-owned newspaper Kampuchea, said the government has to be careful to preserve its few trained troops and limited military supplies.

"This is a war of the poor. So if



Guarding

A young Cambodian stands guard at one of the Angkor Wat temples. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Police seize explosives

# Tokyo radical held

TOKYO, Jan 29, (AP): Police said they seized eight home-made bombs and explosives and arrested a radical worker in a raid on an apartment in Onuma, 28 kilometres (17 miles) north of Tokyo.

Police said the man, Hideki Hojo, 38, is a ranking member of the Revolutionary Workers' Association, a leftist group opposed to the emperor system.

Hojo was arrested on charges of allegedly falsifying documents, using his position as a part-time worker with a bookbinding firm, police said.

Police said the explosives included about 5 kilograms (11 pounds) of sodium chlorate, a chemical used in making bombs.

The radical group, whose membership is believed to be in the hundreds, is suspected in several incidents of sabotage last year, including an explosion during the late

emperor's funeral.

On Feb. 24, 1989, a blast occurred on a highway in Tokyo about 20 minutes before a motorcade carrying the imperial family and other mourners was due to pass. No injuries were reported although the blast scattered mud and concrete debris on the pavement.

Police said they carried out a pre-dawn raid on an apartment in Onuma in the northern part of Tokyo and seized 23 finished and unfinished steel pipe bombs with timing devices, one hand-grenade and 11 pounds (5 kg) of chemicals used for the manufacture of explosives.

Police said other terrorist groups have vowed to obstruct the enthronement ceremony for Akihito.

Today's raid followed a series of terror attacks by radicals this month.

## LDP's revival seen in polls

TOKYO, Jan 29, (AP): Two opinion surveys indicated today that the scandal-shaken ruling party has made gains since an electoral setback and would obtain more than a third of the vote in the next general election.

In a poll conducted by the newspaper Asahi Shimbun, 37 per cent of the respondents said they would vote for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in a lower house election set for Feb. 18.

The level of support from the survey Jan 20-21 was up 16 percentage points from a similar poll conducted two weeks before last July's upper house election, in which the Liberal Democrats lost a majority it held since 1955.

A large number of voters turned against the LDP last year over sex and money scandals, and a new 3 per cent sales tax pushed through the parliament by the party, which has ruled since 1955.

Most of the top LDP leaders were linked to allegations that the information conglomerate Recruit Co. sought to buy influence with cut-price stock shares.

The opposition has been hurt by internal divisions.

Potential coalition partners of the leading opposition party, the Socialists, labelled its policies unrealistic, and many Japanese have expressed misgivings about the opposition's ability to govern.

Asahi Shimbun said its latest survey indicated that 24 per cent of the respondents, down from 28 per cent in the previous survey, intended to vote for the Socialist Party.

Questioned about the outcome of the upcoming election, 25 per cent, down from 34 per cent from last year's survey, said they expected the LDP to maintain a "stable" ruling majority.

Forty-eight per cent, up from 39 per cent, said the election will result in a close balance between the ruling and opposition parties. The poll said 20 per cent of the respondents expected the Liberal Democrats to lose a majority of seats in the lower house. Seven per cent did not answer.

The Liberal Democratic Party currently holds 295 seats in the 512-member house of representatives, and needs 257 seats for a majority.



Moon protests

Moon Dong-hwan, vice-president of an opposition party now isolated by a planned merger among the other three parties in South Korea, hands out newspapers criticising the new conservative alliance to lunar New Year holidaymakers at the Seoul Station recently. Moon's party, led by veteran politician Kim Dae-Jung, has pledged to oppose the merger, which it calls anti-democratic. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Fight, says Kim

# Seoul merger 'a coup d'etat'

SEOUL, Jan 29, (AP): Leading oppositionist Kim Dae-Jung urged "democratic" forces today to join his party in a fight against the planned merger of the ruling party and two other parties.

Kim, the leader of the Party for Peace and Democracy, denounced the plan of the ruling Democratic Justice Party to merge with the second- and third-ranked opposition groups, calling it a "coup d'etat."

"In a single day, the ruling party, which had not even a majority, suddenly became three-quarters of the national assembly. This is a situation which makes total dictatorship possible," he said.

The plan to merge later this month would give a new ruling party about 220 seats in the 299-seat, single-house legislature, against 71 seats for Kim Dae-Jung's No. 1 opposition party, the Democratic Justice Party of President Roh Tae-woo currently

holds 127 seats.

The two other parties in the planned merger are the No. 2 opposition group, the Reunification Democratic Party, headed by Kim Young-Sam, and No. 3 opposition New Democratic Republican Party, led by Kim Jong-Pil.

Speaking at the foreign correspondents club, Kim said his party "will welcome all moderate, democratic political forces and will try to be the people's party."

Kim Dae-Jung said that if the parties insist on merging and changing the constitution to introduce a cabinet system by a prime minister in place of the presidential system, the present assembly must be dissolved for an election to seek the people's will on the changes.

"There is no precedent in our nation's political history for such an infamous and traitorous action," Kim said.

Liberian soldiers hunt down rebels, people flee

SANNIQUELLE, Liberia, Jan 29, (UPI): Fighting and fear spread in northeastern Liberia over the weekend as government troops continued to hunt down rebels and villagers complained of atrocities allegedly committed by the troops.

More than 70,000 people are reported to have fled the unrest into neighbouring countries.

On Friday the mutilated bodies of three supposed rebels were dumped by soldiers along a track just outside Sanniquele.

The decomposing bodies, one with a deep gash to the top of the head and his stomach torn open, bore the three parallel cuts on the shoulder which have come to identify members of the 200-strong rebel force.

The scars, however, appeared to be relatively recent, and there was much doubt in the town as to whether the men were members of the force which launched the

attempted coup d'etat on Dec. 24.

Some local residents claimed that at least one of the men worked for a transportation company in the town.

Soldiers invited villagers to see the bodies on Friday as part of a campaign to gain public confidence in the army.

Public support for the armed forces among the Gio Tribe, which dominates the Nimba area, has disappeared following harassment of Gio by army personnel, who are largely drawn from the Krahn tribe of President Samuel Doe who took power in a violent 1980 coup.

In the past week, reports of serious army misconduct have surfaced. A 12-hour curfew, from 6 pm to 6 am, in Nimba was imposed on Jan. 1. During the hours of curfew, troops are reported to have demanded food, money and sex from civilians.

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Mourning the dead

The family of an ethnic Albanian demonstrator killed by riot police gather around his body in Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo region. Protesters were demanding the lifting of martial law in the region. (Reuter wirephoto)

## 14 killed in Kosovo clashes

### Albanians vow vengeance

#### Call for Kosovo freedom

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Jan 29. (Reuter): Albanians in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province swore blood-oaths of vengeance and mourned 14 of their dead from a weekend of political violence that plunged the region into fresh crisis.

Albanians demanding political reforms clashed with police today in several towns in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo, after 14 people died in weekend demonstrations.

"In 1913 Kosovo fell victim to the carving up of Albanian territory. It must become an independent republic, entirely apart," Leka said in an interview with the Belgian newspaper *La Derniere Heure*.

Kosovo, an enclave of 1.7 million mostly-Muslim ethnic Albanians in the Yugoslav Republic of Serbia, should ultimately become part of Albania, Leka said.

Now living in South Africa with his wife and son, Leka was only two days old when a German and Italian invasion forced his father, King Zog, to flee Albania in 1939.

Leka, who says he aims to overthrow Albania's Stalinist regime to make way for Western-style democracy, was in Brussels on a tour of Europe and the United States to drum up support among Albanian exiles for an uprising.

Reka, 270 km (170 miles) south of Belgrade.

At least 10 people died in clashes throughout Kosovo on Saturday when police fired on demonstrators demanding

into migration in a bid to create a wholly-Albanian Kosovo.

Last year 28 people died after the Albanians rioted against curbs on the province's self-rule in favour of Serbia.

Serbs in many villages and towns were demanding the state protect their lives and property and threatened to take up arms to defend themselves. There was a heavy police presence in most Kosovo towns.

Serbia has vowed not to give in to the demonstrators' demands. Federal leaders have not commented on the unrest.

"Official organs in Kosovo assess that the situation in the province is taking on dramatic trends that could lead to widespread unrest," the national news agency Tanjug said yesterday.

Protests were also reported today in the town of Prizren and its outlying villages near the Albanian border.

Kosovo, which borders on Albania and is part of Yugoslavia's largest republic Serbia, has been torn for decades by tensions between its 1.7 million mostly Muslim ethnic Albanians and 200,000 Christian Serbs and Montenegrins.

Over 40,000 Serbs and Montenegrins have fled the province over the past 10 years, saying the Albanians were terrorising them

Witnesses said police shot dead 10 Kosovo Albanian demonstrators on Saturday and four yesterday in renewed violence over demands for the resignation of local leaders, free elections and the release of political prisoners.

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# Grand coalition formed: Honecker faces trial

E. Germany is disintegrating, says Modrow

EAST BERLIN, Jan 29, (Reuters): East Germany's disgraced former leader Erich Honecker, his erstwhile security police boss and two close politburo associates will stand trial for treason in March, the prosecutor-general said today.

Hans-Juergen Joseph, in a televised speech to Parliament unveiling the extent of criminal inquiries into what he called "indescribable arrogance of power," said the four former politburo titans would be tried before the Supreme Court.

Prime Minister Hans Modrow said today East Germany's political

Honecker, 77, was released from hospital today after undergoing cancer surgery and was hustled off to a prison used to hold people awaiting trial.

Joseph said 23 top-ranking members of the hardline party old guard, ousted from power by a peaceful pro-democracy uprising last November, and more than 200 regional party bosses were under investigation for misrule and corruption.

Fourteen former members of Honecker's politburo were in jail, more than half the ruling body which has since been abolished in a sweeping democratisation of the party.

Some 181 inquiries had been launched against members of Mielke's State Security Ministry for police assaults on peaceful protesters last October, 10 days before Honecker's forced resignation, according to Joseph.

"We have a historical duty to bring to justice the main culprits for violations of the constitution, for our economic chaos, for the killing of the people and systematic violation of human rights," Joseph said.

He said the old party elite led parades of political infidelity and showed an "indescribable arrogance of power" because of their power.

Despite fervent public commitments to democratic reform, the party's authority has crumbled since the old guard's fall because of its track record of misrule.

Communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow and opposition leaders agreed yesterday to form a grand coalition and move up the country's first free elections by two months to March 18, to calm anti-communist turmoil.

Mielke, Herrmann and Miltag, who are already in custody, were considered to have been the main powerbrokers with Honecker in his 18 years of autocratic rule.

The former communist coterie around Honecker had used the Stasi security police, controlled by Mielke, to keep them in power, Joseph said in his report.

Doctors who treated Honecker for cancer said today they considered him unfit to be held in prison and face trial. But Joseph said he believed medical care in special investigative prisons was adequate.

For Honecker, the trial would complete his dramatic fall from grace and bring his life full circle.

In December 1935, he was arrested as a young communist underground worker by the Nazis and put on trial for "preparations for high treason."

In a 15-minute televised speech, a stern-faced Modrow told the Parliament (Volkskammer) that law and order was collapsing, the economy was in tatters and the exodus of disgruntled citizens to the West continued unabated.

"I don't think I have dramatised things here," said Modrow, the communist leader of a five-party coalition government.

Modrow was briefing the deputies on why his government had agreed last night to set up the historic coalition with the 10 opposition groups represented at round-table talks.

The new team is seen as an interim cabinet of "national responsibility" that will rule until elections on March 18, two months earlier than originally planned.

Under the coalition agreement reached just before midnight, nine opposition groups will put ministers in the communist-led government, and parliamentary elections were moved up by nearly two months, from May 6.

Communists will be in minority in the enlarged cabinet for the first time in 40 years.

"The current coalition proved increasingly fragile as economic and social tensions have worsened, affecting the daily life of our people," Modrow said.

An early election would give the country's 16.6 million people the opportunity "to improve, calm and stabilise ... the very fateful situation in our land."

Modrow, a former whose government replaced the Stalinist elite, toppled by pro-democracy protests in November, said strikes, go-slows and disintegrating local government were threatening East Germany's future.

"The economic situation is worsening alarmingly. These strikes, slowdowns and other disturbances are leading to serious production breakdowns."

and economic survival hinged on the government's decision to form a "grand coalition" and bring forward free elections.

Joseph said Honecker and his three aides had systematically trampled over fundamental human rights, warped the media with censorship, squandered and embezzled public funds, and pushed up electoral fraud to preserve the omnipotence of their Stalinist Communist Party.

Facing trial for treason with Honecker would be Erich Mielke, 81, the state security minister for 32 years. Guenter Mittag, the politburo member blamed for ruining the economy with state bureaucracy and ex-propaganda chief Joachim Herrmann.



Honecker (centre) leaves hospital in East Berlin accompanied by his wife Margot (left) and a security policeman. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Polish reds disband party

Turns pink

WARSAW, Jan 29, (Reuters): Poland's communists disbanded their discredited party today and formed a Social Democratic Party headed by one of the brightest young politicians in the country.

"Facing a huge task of winning public support" the New Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland (SDRP) turned to 35-year-old Aleksander Kwasniewski to lead it after emerging from the ashes of the demoralised Polish United Workers Party (PUWP).

Kwasniewski was elected chairman by an overwhelming vote at a party congress that earlier disbanded the PUWP. Leszek Miller, a 43-year-old former Politburo member, became general secretary.

A former central committee secretary, Kwasniewski earned a dynamic image as minister for youth and sport in the last communist government. He was tipped as a future prime minister until the PUWP was humbled in elections and ousted by Solidarity last September.

He said today the new Social Democratic Party would gain credibility if a minority of Stalinist hardliners at its founding congress dropped out and formed their own party.

"It's impossible for so many people to become social democrats overnight," Kwasniewski told reporters. "I think as many as 100 to 150 communist hardliners will quit to form their own party within one or two weeks and I do hope they will."

He said many hardliners at the congress, who lobbied for a socialist, anti-capitalist party rather than Social Democracy, had refused to sign membership applications for the SDRP.

At least one other breakaway party, led by Solidarity-backed former Communist official Tadeusz Fiszbaeh, emerged from the ruins of the 41-year-old Polish United Workers (Communist) Party.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa emphasised the uphill task the new party faces in convincing Poles of its democratic credentials, saying the old party that gave birth to it was responsible for the crisis afflicting Poland.

In a statement from his home in the northern port city of Gdansk, Walesa said the PUWP's demise ended an era of authoritarian rule in Poland.

"Forty years of the party's monopolistic rule beyond the control of society led to a crisis in

citizens' identification with the state, the demise of public and patriotic life and the collapse of the economy," he said.

Walesa also condemned a congress resolution to give PUWP assets worth more than \$70 million to the new party. He said the property was held illegally and the handover would be "an act of arrogance that could only irritate society."

The PUWP was the second Communist Party to re-group under a new name in the tide of democratic change sweeping eastern Europe. Hungary's communists became a Western-style socialist party last October.

But nearly 500 of the 1,600 ex-communists at the Congress failed to show up to elect the new leaders today, a snub that may boost a rival group set up by about 100 progressives yesterday.

The Union of Social Democracy of the Republic of Poland, headed by former Gdansk party chief Tadeusz Fiszbaeh, walked out of the Congress to dissociate itself from hardliners.

The group may base its hopes for public support on personal backing that Walesa gave Fiszbaeh before the congress — a contribution that could give it credibility in the eyes of many Poles.

Many will see Kwasniewski's party as simply the old communists under a new name. It appears to have no immediate chance of achieving what it was created to do — win free elections.

"Our party will long be seen as the former PUWP," General Secretary Miller told the Congress.

The Saar poll opened a year-long electoral marathon in West Germany, which will have three more state elections and two local government polls before December's general elections.

The East German government and opposition leaders agreed on Sunday to hold the country's first free elections on March 18, two months earlier than scheduled, throwing another wild card into the electoral balance.

Lafontaine's populist charisma kept fringe parties on the right and left — the Republicans and the Greens — under the five per cent of the vote needed to enter the Saar assembly.

Conceding defeat, Toepper, who is not from Saar state, said Lafontaine profited by stressing his "Saar patriotism."

"This was a unique situation," he said. "It is a bitter experience to lose but it is not a reason to be resigned."

An anti-communist protester is detained in Warsaw. (Reuters wirephoto)

The four nuclear blocks at Greifswald have become... unpredictable time-bombs — a Russian roulette of nuclear technology," it said.

"Two hours by car from Hamburg, Hanover and Berlin there is a nuclear charge that could explode at any time, releasing a cloud of radiation that would contaminate the whole of central Europe. By all Western safety standards, all four reactors should be shut down immediately."

Der Spiegel said that in 1988 alone, there had been 18 urgent reactor shutdowns at Greifswald because of technical problems, 242 "unplanned events" and 122 disturbances.

Sixty previously secret documents, Der Spiegel said safety precautions were disastrously inadequate and staff were exposed to potentially lethal doses of radiation.

The reactors were badly designed and were not protected against plane crashes or earthquakes. Reactors were so badly designed that the rawwater was being heated and radiated steam was routinely let off into the atmosphere.

It reported last week that a Chernobyl-style disaster had been narrowly averted in 1976.

Responding to this and other reports, East Germany's Nuclear Safety Office (SAAS) said yesterday there had not been any "inadmissible" radioactive leaks from the country's power stations.

■ East Germany will not build any more nuclear power stations in the foreseeable future, a government spokesman said today.

## Oskar victory setback for Kohl

BONN, Jan 29, (Agencies): Oskar Lafontaine, a combative Social Democrat, briefly opened his general election campaign to undercut West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl by scoring a landslide victory in Saar state assembly polls.

His re-election on Sunday put the controversial state premier, 46, at the head of the opposition Social Democrats' (SPD) campaign for the nationwide elections in December.

The Saar SPD swept a surprising 54 per cent of the vote against seven challengers, according to the final count, after notching 49 per cent in the state's last elections in 1985.

Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), led in the Saar campaign by Environment Minister Klaus Toepper from Bonn, crashed to 33 per cent from 37 per cent five years ago.

"I'm very happy about this result, I'm surprised at how high it was," the beaming premier said in Saarbruecken, capital of his small state in the hills along the French border.

But Lafontaine, whose party has waited for the state result before naming him its national candidate, declined to say whether he would now become the SPD candidate.

"All these other questions are for later," he protested to persistent television reporters. He said an SPD executive meeting in Bonn would not yet decide on a candidate.

Today's demonstrators rejected allegations that the NSF consisted of unrepresentative communists and said men like Iliescu, who had saved them from Ceausescu's tyranny.

"The front are our people and we believe in them," said engineer Gheorghe Croitoru, 49, who was among about 25,000 other front supporters in Victory Square outside the vast neo-Stalinist building.

Many demonstrators expressed strong suspicion of some of the political parties which have been made legal since Ceausescu was toppled on Dec 22.

"They have come from abroad... they did not suffer with us," said factory worker Panait Rizea. He was referring to National Liberal Party leader Paul Campeanu, who returned to Romania from France three weeks ago.

Campeanu told journalists today he had lived in France for 16 years after spending nine years in jail and several years working as a labourer.

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## KFC planning to expand local operations

### Seafood restaurants in all areas

KUWAIT, Jan 29, (Kuna): The Kuwait Fisheries Company (KFC) has embarked on plans aiming at broadening its activities and at the same time working for maintaining balanced prices for fish at the local market, a ranking company official said.

KFC assistant managing director Faisal Bin Sabt said in an interview with Kuwait News Agency that by supplying the local market with its needs of fish and shrimps it is meeting the local demand and at the same time preserving a balance in prices so that consumers can buy their needs.

He added that the company carries out its fishing activities through its 13 modern-equipped fishing boats and sells its products at 29 outlets (Dana centres) and at Shuwaikh fish market.

He referred to the new field which the company has begun nearly three years ago, represented in the opening of a chain of restaurants, specialized in serving seafood.

Bin Sabt said the company intends to expand the activity of restaurants and is planning to set up branches in all areas of

the country.

The KFC official emphasized in an answer to a question that the company does not compete with individual fishermen, but it puts its products at the local market like any other trader.

On the company's future plans, Bin Sabt said it is envisaging expanding fishing operations and improving its tinning factories and refrigeration warehouses and increasing productivity.

He added that setting up an ice factory is under way by the company to supply ships with their needs of ice.

## Climate deters farming: Othman

THE managing director of the board at the Kuwait Agro-production Company Khaled Abdullah Al-Othman has said that the Kuwait agricultural sector has limitations of volume and prospects, therefore its contribution to the Gross National Product remains comparatively low.

He told a local daily that the environmental and climatic factors formed the foremost constraints that were responsible for the comparative high costs and inability for this sector to grow and flourish.

He said that the sandy soil in Kuwait is poor in nutrients and does not retain water, besides it contains minerals unsuitable for plants. The scarcity of irrigation water supplies, high temperature in the summer and low temperature in winter with chances for frost formation also harms plants.

Othman added that dry wind and sandstorms precipitates the rate of evaporation and breaks plant stems and required the installation of windbreakers which increased agro-production cost. The high humidity and heat waves led to the growth of fungi and spread of plant and animal disease. Besides these natural hardships local agro-production activities also face tough competition against imported products and the market bias by consumers in favour of the imported products are added to factors limited the prospects for agricultural activities to flourish and develop.

He said that marketing posed a difficult task, as producers always asked for a high price for products, while consumers in contrast sought low-priced products. The problem is worsened when the products marketed are fragile and highly susceptible to damage, and consequently has a very short shelf life.

He also said that the agro-products supply would sometimes not be able to meet the high demand, and that under all these circumstances the company has to pay considerable attention to the marketing of products produced by Kuwaiti farmers in order to ensure positive results and yield for the farmer, the agricultural sector and the national economy on the whole.

Othman said the company placed all its capabilities at the disposal of farmers, which included the packaging of perishable goods in appropriate plastic and carton containers and storing these products in suitably refrigerated areas to minimize damage, while balancing supply and demand to meet local needs.

### Violations

The official said that the Ministry of Social Affairs will dissolve the board of any co-operative society that does not abide by the regulations and laws. He disclosed that only two boards of co-operatives have violated the law so far.

Further, he said that the minister of social affairs refused a proposal to make the Auditing Bureau control the accounts of co-operative societies. "Each co-operative has its auditors who are qualified to execute this function," he said.

The members of the Farwaniya Council called on the health minister to expand Farwaniya Hospital,

AT a meeting with the Governor of Farwaniya and the Council of Farwaniya Governorate, the ministers of social affairs, health and education stressed readiness to co-operate with the councils of five governorates to meet the demands of citizens.

Abdulla Al Qatami, chairman of the council, at the outset of the meeting, submitted a list of demands which included the need for a labour department in the Farwaniya Governorate; separating Qortuba Co-operative Society from Udayia Co-operative Society and annexing it to Surra Co-operative or Yarmouk Co-operative and the establishment of youth centres in some areas of the governorate.

Sheikh Naser Mohammed Al Ahmad, the minister of social affairs and labour, informed the members that the ministry had allocated a site for the Farwaniya Labour Department and that youth centres in some areas of the governorates will be built gradually.

Sheikh Nasser went on to explain that the ministry has completed debating the new co-operative societies law and will open society development centres soon.

He added that the decision to increase the rents of shops of co-operative societies was taken by the state and not the minister of finance or the minister of social affairs. Further, he said that the authorities have as yet not determined the percentage that will be deducted from the profits of co-operative societies for the governorate councils. However, he said the state will deduct 25 per cent of these amounts to serve areas and some will be allocated for the governorate councils.

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He said that the Farwaniya Hospital will be expanded to accommodate an additional 120 beds for all major specialties such as pediatrics, maternity and internal diseases. The ministry plans to build a new hospital in Surra area and coupled with the Farwaniya Hospital will be adequate to cater to the needs of the people of the Farwaniya Governorate.

The ministry will receive the new health centre of south Farwaniya next June and on it being operational, it will reduce the pressure on the other health centres, the official said.

Clinics

The ministry will also provide special clinics for bachelors and others for families in Khetan Area beside clinics in Omariya and Rabia areas that will be opened after two months. The ministry began building health centres that can serve over 25,000 persons, the official said. The director of Farwaniya Health Area Dr Sulaiman Al Falah said that the area has eight clinics for diabetes, Farwaniya and Khetan co-operative societies contributed to build two new clinics. He added that Ministry of Health will open a specialised centre in Khetan area just like the Salimya health centre.

Minister Al Awadi revealed that the ministry has completed a study to organise and open private pharmacies and disclosed that the ministry is studying a special system to allow Kuwaiti physicians to treat patients who want private physicians.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri stressed that there is no political decision to control the appointment of teachers of certain nationalities in schools. Headed that the ministry appoints non-Kuwaiti teachers according to requirements. But he added that there is a political decision to appoint Kuwaiti graduates of the faculty of education at Kuwait University and the faculty of basic education and Training. The ministry is also studying the unification of the educational system in the secondary stage. A decision on this question will be taken during the next scholastic year, he said.

He pointed out that the company operates new service which guarantees home to house delivery of refrigerated vegetables and fruits.

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Meanwhile, the department reported that detectives of Hawalli Governorate have arrested a gang identified as Dawoud H., Abed M., Hashem A. and Ahmed A. all Syrians on charges of committing several

Investigations revealed that the accused was assisted in the crime by an accomplice identified as Ajeeb F.

The stolen articles have been recovered and the suspects are presently under police custody.

Meanwhile the department reported that detectives of Hawalli Governorate have arrested a gang identified as Dawoud H., Abed M., Hashem A. and Ahmed A. all Syrians on charges of committing several

All the accused have been remanded to police custody.

Two defendants identified as Abdul Aziz M. Kuwaiti and Ali A. Iraqi were apprehended by detectives of Al Ahmad Governorate on charges of stealing about 50 bags of dates belonging to an Iraqi national

identified as Oudeh M.

The graduation ceremony was patronised by the deputy director general of Paaet Humoud Al Mudhai.

A training course on computers, organised by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) on Dec 19, 1989 was concluded recently.

The training course was attended by 17 trainees from the Council of Ministers, Public Authority for Civil

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A training course on computers, organised by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) on Dec 19, 198

# Telex service rates may be cut by 50pc

## Study to reduce communications tariff

THE director of the International Accounts Department at the Ministry of Communications Maryam Minhammar Al Asfoor has said that a study is currently being conducted by the ministry to reduce the annual subscription rates for the telex service by 50 per cent.

She told a local daily that another study was being conducted to explore the possibility of reducing the tariff for outgoing satellite messages from Kuwait over the

Indian Ocean, and to establish the feasibility of leasing mobile channels to the public after reducing the rate per channel by over 50 per cent.

### Services

She pointed out that these studies and related measures were commissioned in response to ministerial decision No. 58 for 1988, which provided for the reduction of telex communication services, annual subscription rate and fees for actual service

relay, which also included the marine telecommunication services; 'Inmarsat.'

Asfoor said that this was a recently introduced service due to its vital importance to businessmen in the economic and commercial sector which linked Kuwait through a number of similar coastal land stations to the Indian Ocean and to the Pacific via the Japanese and American stations.

She added that the proposed tariff

reduction for communications from ships to land and from ship to ship in the Atlantic Ocean was 25 per cent.

She announced that the operation of the night-call system is 7 pm till 11 pm next morning. The tariff per word has been reduced from fils 105 to 75 for marine telecommunications involving land to ship and the tariff for marine telecommunication was reduced from 570 to fils 300. Asfoor said.

She added that the proposed tariff

## Information crucial for development plans: Rashed

By Lima Al Khaisafawi  
Arab Times staff

THE vital role of official information is based on usage of such information in preparing and implementing national development plans, according to the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed.

Addressing the participants in a keynote speech yesterday at the seminar on Official Information and its Role in Scientific Research Decision Making, the official called for utilising this opportunity to set up a national system for information services.

"Authenticated information is the primary factor in making decisions which steer the path of national development," said Rashed who is also chairman of the board of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (Kisr).

Director-General of Kisr Dr Ahmad Ali Al Jassar said in a separate speech that Kisr, Kuwait University and Kuwait Foundation for Scientific Advancement are working jointly "in produce thorough bibliographies in series published occasionally."

He added that the institute has given worthy attention to Kisr's National Centre for Scientific and Technological Information leading it to grow into a major source of information in the country and abroad.

This symposium, he asserted, was organised after a survey by a scientific team concluded that most of the departments in the government suffer from a lack of information in a variety of fields.

"This must be faced with joint effort to find a solution based on conscious planning leading to the service of development in the country," Jassar emphasised.

Studied by researchers from Kuwait University, the Arab League and the Gulf Co-operation Council will be presented to participants during the three-day symposium.

The first day of the seminar included three sessions during which, Abbas Al Mohamed of Kisr said that development plans are based on and linked to clear facts and confirmed information.

Dr Mohamed Al Zuhairi of Kuwait University presented his research on official information and the factors affecting its services in Kuwait. The paper discussed the definition of official information, its producers and related publishing technology.

Zuhairi commented on the lack of a unified system to produce official information. As for printing such information, he said that some government establishments depend on their in-house capabilities or commercial printers, rather than using the government printing press.

He further commented that the issue of distribution of official information is not subject to specific rules.

Talking about the main problems related to official information, Zuhairi enumerated the multiplicity of authorities producing such information, unavailability of demographic tools and regulations for storage and retrieval. He also cited other problems which included duplication of such information and the non-existence of an authority to organise such publications.

Fayrouz Al Freih of Kisr discussed on sources and types of official information which included libraries and information centres.

She stressed on the importance of handling and organising official information, setting up a national policy and legislation. She concluded her research with a number of recommendations, including setting up an independent authority for governmental publication and other specialised libraries.

The seminar will continue its sessions until Wednesday.



**British educational books exhibition**

Dr Yacoub Al Sharrah, assistant undersecretary for private education at the Ministry of Education, saw the exhibition of British educational books which opened Saturday at the Regency Palace Hotel. The exhibition will carry on until Feb 2 and is open from 9 am to 6 pm.

10 times quicker than humans

## Machine translation inevitable, says expert

By Diana Abou Halder  
Arab Times staff

JUST like trains when they were first invented, machine translation today is rather clumsy, but soon enough there will be no stopping it, says a Soviet expert.

Speaking at a lecture at Kuwait University last week Professor Yuri Marchuk who is chairman of the Applied Linguistics Department at Moscow Lomonosov State University, said that machine translation is inevitable.

"Human translation is a bottleneck in the process of exchanging scientific and technical information. The volume of translation in the world is growing by 15 per cent every year," said Marchuk.

He added that efforts towards developing a practical international language are not encouraging.

Marchuk says that machine translation is mostly used for scientific and technical texts because it is 10 times quicker than human translators. "But the finished product will always need editing. The editing isn't so heavy on some texts such as patents but on others, such as magazine articles, it is," said the ex-director of the Translating Institute in Moscow.



Marchuk ... speed

He added that in some texts, machine translation is not economically profitable because it takes too much human effort to prepare these texts for translation and edit them afterwards.

"Some translators are reluctant to use machines, and some editors become so tired of correcting silly mistakes computers make, that they say they would rather translate the whole document again," says Marchuk.

He smiles as he assures translators that they will stay in the market because machines cannot do all types of translations.

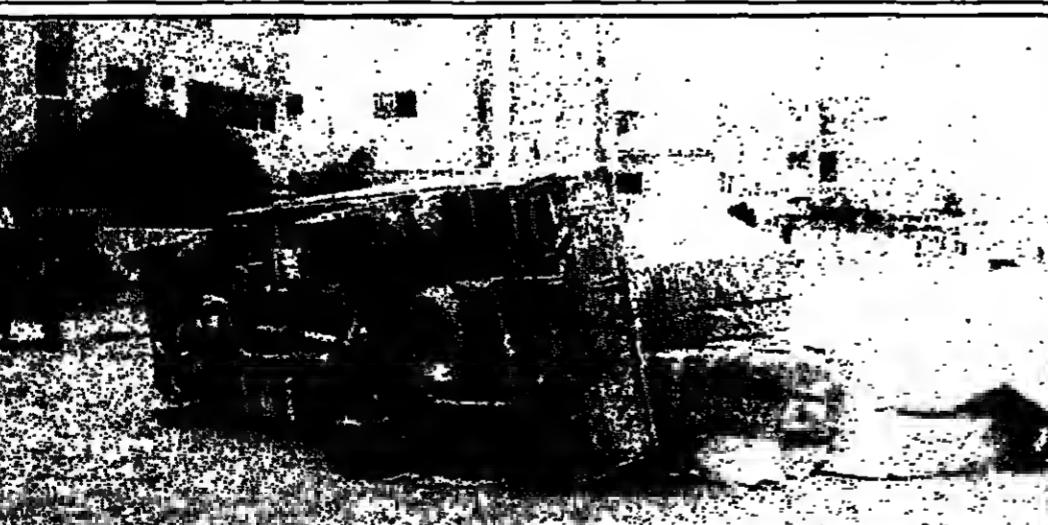
"Machine translation is limited to certain kinds of translations that are not liked by humans anyway such as mammals, patents and inventory lists," adds Marchuk.

The Soviet expert predicts that machine translation will become cheaper than human translation in five years. "We need a breakthrough in linguistic theory and artificial intelligence in order to teach machines how to translate better and faster," he says.

Marchuk says that 5 to 7 per cent of the total volume of scientific translations in the Soviet Union are done by computer. "We have commercially available systems that translate from English into Russian."

He added that research on machine translation in the Soviet Union started in the '50s. Marchuk says that although Soviets are behind in manufacturing computer hardware and making it available, they are ahead in programming, linguistic theory and mathematics.

"We are working on manufacturing our own computers, so far they are not on high standards, but in our country, when we're intent on something, we achieve it in a few years," Marchuk said confidently.



**Overloaded turn of events**

This vanette which was overloaded with newsprint rolled on its side as the driver tried to take a sharp turn in the newspaper area. The driver and the newsprint suffered no damage. (Photo by Ahmed Burini)

KUWAIT, Jan 29 (Kuna): Planning Minister and acting Minister of Public Health Abdul Rahman Al Awadi has formed an enlightenment, health and media committee against AIDS.

The committee, which will be headed by Assistant Health Undersecretary for Public Health Affairs Ali Al Saif, is to spread public

awareness on this disease and on preventive means.

The committee will prepare a health enlightenment plan through media means and prepare some educational seminars and meetings to inform the people about the risk of the disease.

The committee will also provide some educational information on AIDS and the

latest research and development in this field published by international educational magazines.

Newsletters and advertisements will be prepared by the committee in co-ordination with other departments in the country to implement the health enlightenment plan against AIDS.

With respect to the number of patients received at the hospital Eidan pointed out that Al Adan Hospital receives approximately 800 patients daily adding that these patients are mainly victims of traffic accidents.

He indicated that Al Adan Hospital includes all specialities like surgery, internal, maternity, ear and nose, eyes and others. He said that the casualty section at the hospital is able to cover and receive all accidents, through some cases which require special care are transferred to Al Sabah Hospital.

He pointed out that 150 beds will be added to the hospital very soon

to compensate for the increase in population. He added that the hospital currently has a total of 561 beds. With the fast increase of the housing projects on the Fifth Ring Road, there will be a need to establish another hospital to cover services, the official said.

Eidan added that the hospital suffers from the shortage in the number of nurses pointing out that this problem is common all over the world. At present, the hospital requires a total of 139 additional nurses to cover patients services.

### Accident victims

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On the other hand, Dr. Mahmoud Abdul Khaleq, from the blood disease unit at the hospital said that the blood disease unit is considered to be one of the hospital laboratories and consists of four units. He pointed out that laboratories at Adan Hospital are considered highly developed in the field of computer applications. All laboratory results and tests are computerised and information can easily and rapidly be retrieved.

The head of the Social Service Section at the hospital, Falah Mihammed Al Ajmi stated that social specialists assist patients during their hospitalisation period to adapt to their new surroundings in the hospital. He added that the social specialists play an important role in spreading health awareness and guidance among residents and patients. He said that courses are organised by the department to train university students to become social specialists.

He pointed out that the high number of elderly individuals indicate an alarming sign. He revealed that statistics indicate that suicide incidents are highest among housemaids.



**Wangchuck ends 3 day visit**

The King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuck left here for Bahrain yesterday following an official three-day visit to Kuwait.

Wangchuck was seen off by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Jaber in addition to the Amir Diwan minister, ministers and senior officials and dean of the diplomatic corps.

Wangchuck before departure told reporters that his talks with HH the Amir dealt with international issues, bilateral relations and means of boosting political and economic co-operation between the two countries.

The King hailed the Amir's internal and foreign policies and praised Kuwait as a credible mediator in Middle East and international disputes and conflicts.

He further expressed satisfaction over his visit and described his talks with HH the Amir and senior Kuwaiti officials as fruitful, adding they contributed to strengthening friendship, understanding and co-operation between the two countries.

He particularly paid tribute to HH the Amir's 1988 proposal at the United Nations for helping resolve the heavy debt crisis of Third World countries.

## Signature campaign to stem Jew immigration

Soviet envoy to receive list

KUWAIT, Jan 29 (Kuna): A signature collection campaign has been launched here demanding that the Soviet Union stops the wave of Jewish Soviet immigration to occupied Palestine.

The Kuwaiti chief diplomat affirmed that Kuwait had agreed to launch the mediation efforts after it was totally convinced that the measure harms interests of sisterly countries Iraq and Syria.

He said that the matter "bothers us and we do not accept it" because "we want the Arab countries' relations with friends and neighbours to be strong and based on co-operation and mutual respect."

Meanwhile reports from the occupied territories said that the budget of the Israeli Ministry of Immigration and Absorption will reach more than two billion Shekels, with an increase by one and a half billion compared with the figures last year.

Sources of the Finance Ministry said that if Israel faces new problems concerning absorption it is likely to ask for a loan of \$400 million from the US and will raise money from internal resources.

According to the sources 40,000 apartments are to be built during the new year instead of the previous plan of 20,000 to absorb the new comers.

Palestine Ambassador to Kuwait Awni Battash yesterday said that the Soviet Union can find means enabling Soviet Jews to immigrate to areas other than Palestine.

Battash said that Moscow is capable of helping Soviet Jews to immigrate to countries they wish to go to, pointing out that majority of them do not wish to resettle in Palestine.

The Palestinian ambassador, who was addressing a press conference at the International Fair Grounds in Mishrif on the occasion of the near end of the second Palestine Week which coincides with the week in solidarity with Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, said that he voices the opinion with all due respect to the friendship with the Soviet Union.

### Editorial

Another Arabic daily published a large front page headline reading "The Bear and the Dollar for stealing our homeland" in clear reference to the US-Soviet co-operation in directing the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. The paper asked readers to sign the message and send it to the Soviet embassy in Kuwait. The message is addressed to the Soviet leader, Gorbachev and titled "A message from an Arab citizen to President Gorbachev. The letter said that the migration of the Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine is construed as direct support to Israel to continue its expansionist and aggressive policy. The letter also appeals to Gorbachev to block Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine.

### Bias

Battash said that the US does not serve the Mideast peace process and contradicts the doctrine of human rights advocated by Washington and does not make the latter an acceptable partner in the peace process.

He underlined that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, despite the American greenlight coupled with unlimited support, could not terminate the heroic Palestinian Intifada with all the

ground.

Battash called on Arab nations living in Kuwait to visit the week, which displays various products including those by Palestinians in Occupied Palestine, affirming that revenues will go for the support of the Intifada, which has been uninterrupted since December 1987.

## Attitude of patients a problem, says official

### 800 treated daily at Al Adan

AL ADAN hospital, one of the modern hospitals in Kuwait equipped with all modern equipments, covers the need of patients coming from remote areas particularly residents at the tenth area. The hospital was established to cater to the increase in population.

A local daily visited the hospital to highlight health and treatment services and problems it encounters. An interview was conducted with the deputy/director of Al Adan Hospital, Dr Adnan Al Eidan and a number of section heads and officials at the hospital.

Eidan stated that one of the main problems facing the hospital administration and medical staff is dealing with patients. He added that efforts should be made from both sides to upgrade the level of this relationship and to provide patients with the required awareness to understand all health and treated stages. He stressed that such programmes should direct efforts to strengthen trust between patients and medical staff.

### Accident victims

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SHALLOW men believe in luck — Ralph Waldo Emerson, US writer (1803-1882).

Fate in two months' time

## Gorby could get the sack

STOCKHOLM, (Reuter): Swedish Professor Anders Aslund, author of a book on the Soviet Union under perestroika, is convinced that the fate of Mikhail Gorbachev and his reforms will be decided in the next few months.

Aslund's "Gorbachev's Struggle for Economic Reform" — is the book which Newsweek magazine places "at the top of Washington's reading list."

Aslund himself would agree.

"(Secretary of State) James Baker outlined new US policy in three speeches in October and November. He concluded that Gorbachev's perestroika was the best Soviet policy the US could ever hope for."

"Baker's analysis is based to a large degree on my book which he used as a source with footnotes and all in a speech to the Senate. It is an exceptionally wise analysis, very close to my own," he said.

### Diplomat

Aslund, a professor of economics and former diplomat to Moscow, concluded in his book that the Soviet economy was much weaker than estimated by the US Central Intelligence Agency and most Western analysts, and the military burden far greater.

Unlike many analysts he sees Gorbachev, the Soviet President and Communist Party chief, as a man committed to Western ideas such as market economics and democracy but who lacks the political power to set the Soviet Union on a truly liberal course.

The professor predicted last autumn's fall of the Czechoslovak regime. He was correct. He predicted the early resignation of East German leader Egon Krenz. Right again.

Now Aslund says Gorbachev has slim chances of surviving the next two months, and hopes he is wrong.

If the President's conservative opponents are to oust him, they must act before regional and local elections in March, Aslund recently told a group of foreign correspondents in Stockholm.

### Logic

"The logic of the situation demands that this is when Gorbachev falls from power. Even the party apparatus itself says it will be wiped out in these elections. The conservative apparatus will cease to exist in March," he said.

Aslund sees the Lithuanian Communist Party's break with Moscow last month — the first split in party ranks since the 1917 revolution — rather than the current ethnic unrest and nationalism in the southern Azerbaijani republic, as the main threat to Gorbachev.

"If Gorbachev recognises the independent Lithuanian party, a conservative majority on the Politburo will oust him."

"If he expels them, he will lose all authority with his liberal supporters, making it easy for the conservatives to push him out," he said.

Aslund, 37, spent three years at Sweden's embassy in Moscow after Gorbachev came to power, giving him an early chance to research the new openness under glasnost.

"Misinformation has largely played out its role in the Soviet Union. There is a variety of reliable open sources, and by talking to high-level officials you can find out the real facts about what is happening there."

Aslund is reluctant to count out Gorbachev.

"He is probably the most skilled politician in the world so one presumes he will find a way out of this situation."

"But the critical thing is that (contrary) Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has no sympathy whatsoever for aspirations of the Baltic republics, and Gorbachev normally needs Ryzhkov's support if he is to gain a Politburo majority."

### Solution

"A solution for Gorbachev could be that another crisis which pits other Politburo groupings against each other, not Gorbachev versus Ryzhkov, moves to centre stage," he said.

"But it is very hard to believe in this solution."

If Gorbachev falls, he will be replaced by authoritarian rule combined with cautious economic reform under Ryzhkov, Aslund believes.

"Ryzhkov is the only other politician with any standing in the country. Gorbachev has skilfully destroyed the two conservative alternatives, (Politburo members) Yegor Ligachev and Lev Zaikov — by unleashing... (radical reformist) Boris Yeltsin on them."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1522 — Lubeck declares war on Denmark and lays waste to Bornholm.

1641 — Portuguese surrender Malacca in Malaya to the Dutch.

1648 — Peace between Spain and the Netherlands is signed at Munster.

1788 — Charles Edward Stuart, young pretender to British throne, dies in Rome.

1902 — Britain signs treaty with Japan providing for independence of China and Korea.

1933 — Adolf Hitler is named Chancellor of Germany.

1943 — Soviets destroy German army southwest of Stalingrad in World War II.

1948 — Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated by a Hindu in New Delhi, India.

1957 — United Nations calls on South Africa to reconsider its apartheid policy.

1962 — UN General Assembly adopts Asian-African resolution calling on Portugal to halt repressive measures against Angolans.

1964 — South Vietnamese General Nguyen Khanh seizes power in coup in Saigon.

1970 — Two students are killed and more than 200 wounded as demonstrators storm presidential palace in Philippine capital of Manila.

1972 — British troops kill 13 civilians during rioting in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

1979 — White Rhodesians approve new constitution to eventually give blacks control of the nation.

1984 — Libya's leader Muammar Khaddafi, in interview with French radio network, warns there could be military escalation in Chad because of France's new defence line in that North-Central African nation.

1986 — President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines pledges to relinquish power peacefully if he loses to Corazon Aquino in the Feb 7 election.

1988 — Prince Norodom Sihanouk says he is resigning as head of Cambodia's anti-Vietnamese coalition.

1989 — United States closes its embassy in besieged Afghan capital of Kabul.

## Hong Kong to force them back to Vietnam Boat people live in squalor

HONG KONG, (AP): Vietnamese boat people endure boredom and constant stress at squalid detention centres in Hong Kong, battling disease, overcrowding and government attempts to ship them home, social workers say.

Independent social workers paint a bleak picture of the living conditions for 44,000 Vietnamese held in nearly one dozen detention centres throughout this British colony.

The boat people face repatriation to their common homeland against their will unless they prove they fled persecution or volunteer to return.

In the meantime, Hong Kong's government has refused reporters' repeated requests to visit the camps, saying they are out open to journalists. But social workers report grim conditions in the detention centres, though Hong Kong officials say they're doing their best to make the camps livable.

At Chi Ma Wan camp, according to one social worker, idle Vietnamese men stare blankly into space and the air reeks of open drains. At Shek Kong in the rural new territories, boat people live in tents pitched on an old runway.

Most of the camps are packed beyond official capacity, with each boat person typically allotted a tiny space on a three-tiered bunk bed to call home.

### Health

"There is no private space for any purpose," said Steven Municy, executive director of Family and Community Service International, which provides social and mental health services to the boat people.

A government spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said pinkeye, diarrhoea and chicken pox are common in the teeming centres.

Adrie van Gelderen, refugee co-ordinator for International Social Service that provides educational and recreational programmes, said the camps appear calm during the day, but rapes and other physical assaults break out at night.

Factional fighting has broken out frequently in the camps, and police report five Vietnamese died last year in the clashes.

The government has arrested some boat people accused of violence and has taken steps to separate what it claims are feuding groups from different provinces.

When large numbers of people are kept cooped up in camps, particularly in hot weather, there is bound to be a great deal of discomfort and frustration," Secretary of Security Geoffrey Barnes said when riots broke out last summer. "Temperatures become short and incidents are bound to occur occasionally."

A government spokeswoman, who declined to be named, said the government has tried its best to provide housing for the boat people.

She acknowledged living conditions were poor last summer when Vietnamese were arriving by the thousands each month and Hong Kong didn't have enough camps to cope with the influx. Many were placed on an island that had few facilities.

The government spent \$66.2 million to build and run the camps in the latest fiscal year, she said.

Some boat people gather at night to discuss how to oppose the forced repatriation programme that began Dec 12, when Hong Kong security forces whisked 51 people from the Whitehead holding centre to the airport before dawn for a flight to Hanoi.

Whitehead is a time bomb after the first (forced) repatriation. You can feel it in the camp. People sleep with their shoes on in case police get them at night. Some sleep at daytime so they can be awake at night," Van Gelderen said.

A refugee worker who spoke on condition of anonymity added: "The men are all mobilized to attack people who come in to get them. At night they organize patrols to watch the guards."

When security forces entered one camp a few weeks ago for a weapons search, it touched off a riot among the inmates.

Occasional searches by officials have turned up



A Vietnamese refugee boy looks from behind the fence of a Hong Kong police truck door locked by a handcuff. (Reuter wirephoto)

The government rejected the criticism, saying the benefit of the doubt always goes to the asylum seekers.

Social workers also have sharply criticised the living conditions the Vietnamese face as they await word on their fate.

"What disturbs me is that they live behind bars," said Van Gelderen. "My first concern is that they can't get out and that's detrimental."

Boredom is a constant irritant.

"One of the biggest problem in closed camps is that they (the Vietnamese) don't have anything to do," said Steve Reynolds of World Vision, a Los Angeles-based humanitarian and development organisation.

## The Iron Curtain crumbles

LUTZMANNSBURG, Austria, (AP): One crisp evening as Eastern Europe was becoming free, an old man named Johan Pavitis sat near the Hungarian border fence and remembered a December day in 1948.

That was when the barbed wire went up between Lutzmannsburg in Austria and Zsira in Hungary, and soldiers came from the Hungarian hinterland. They knew little of the bonds that had tied the two villages for generations. Innocently they asked a farmer for the loan of his plow so they could tighten the wires in what would come to be known as the Iron Curtain.

The world ended here. But it was only half a world. The other half was over there," said Pavitis, gesturing with his calloused labourer's hand at the lights coming on in Zsira, 300 yards (metres) east.

"And now the barbed wire is being taken away, and the world is whole again."

The world is whole again — it was a refrain heard constantly by an Associated Press reporter and photographer on a journey from Travemunde, the West German port where the Iron Curtain begins with watchtowers and high fences, to Trieste, the Italian port where it ends in a rusty, shin-high rail.

The most vivid image of the cold war was in collapse: border walls piled in useless slabs; the barbed wire from uprooted Czechoslovak fences coiled by the roadside; deserted, padlocked watchtowers.

Countryside once quiet, divided and remote now buzzes with Trabants, the smoky little East German cars that have become the most immediate symbol of the new freedoms.

New holes were constantly opening in the 871-mile (1,491-kilometre) chain of walls, fence and watchtowers of the German-German border.

At Hitzacker, 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of Lutzmannsburg, a ferry toots its horn, the last passengers scramble aboard and it chugs off on a six-minute voyage to the East German bank of the Elbe river. Michael Bresle, 31, is skipping the first service across the Elbe since April 1945, when his grandfather's ferry was sunk by American artillery.

As soon as he had heard the border was opening, he says, he sent leaflets to the East German village across the river: "Be at the fence on Nov 18; we're coming to fetch you."

Now he finds hundreds of East Germans waiting for him, pressing against the fence, shouting, "open the gate." The East German guards refuse, but they soon cave in. So many cheering, weeping people climb aboard that the ferry is briefly grounded.

Philippsburg, in Hessen state: As American soldiers patrol, bulldozers open a new crossing. Two US soldiers walk up, looking for pieces of the Iron Curtain as souvenirs. The East German guards are unco-operative, and the soldiers leave empty-handed.

Philippsburg checkpoint on the Hungarian border: Gards wave lines of cars through and the duty-free shop is doing brisk business. Crossing this border used to take hours, as cars were searched for arms, Western magazines and hidden escapes.

Along the roads, signs offer tourists rooms for rent, churches and shops are open, a picture of Christ is tacked to a tree, and little is left to suggest that this had once been one of the toughest communist countries in Europe.

Lutzmannsburg, Austria: Heinz Ritter is a 50-year-old schoolteacher and local historian whose scrapbooks and photo album are helping nearby Hungarian scholars fill the blanks created by communist censorship.

"They have the same problem that my generation had after Hitler: to find out what was true, what really happened," Ritter says.

"You can't flee history."

In Ritter's father's diary, the entry for Dec 14, 1948, records the departure of Lazlo Kober, Lutzmannsburg's handyman. Kober returned to his village of Zsira, 300 yards (metres) away in Hungary. Then the fence went up, and he didn't come back for 41 years. Now 60, he's back in Lutzmannsburg, mowing lawns and painting window frames.

Trieste: In Winston Churchill's description, this Italian port on the Adriatic was the southern end of the Iron Curtain.

Trieste became a cold war flashpoint when Yugoslavia claimed it after World War II. But the dispute was settled in 1954, Yugoslavia left the Soviet bloc, and the frontier at Trieste is largely unfenced. Thousands of Yugoslavs travel to Trieste to work or shop, while Triestines own summer houses on Yugoslavia's Istriana peninsula.

Europe's ideological divide finishes at Muggia, the Venetian quarter of Trieste.

arms of Augusta Beyer, 83, his next-door neighbour who many years ago.

Bratislava, Czechoslovakia: This city of 500,000 lies right on the Iron Curtain but now it seems as if it had just experienced a liberating explosion.

Posters and political cartoons adorn every wall and shop window. A building displaying a hammer and sickle of communism is festooned with 25 protest banners.

For the first time in 20 years the newspapers contain real news, and people form long lines to buy them.

Until a few days earlier, residents of Bratislava's high-rise apartments could only look across the Danube into Austria and into the eyes of freedom. Bratislava is just an hour's drive away, but to go there people had to have official permission, fill in reams of forms and leave behind a close relative to guarantee their return. Now they just go off in the car, visa requirements for Austrians and Czechoslovakians were abolished in time for Christmas.

Hegyeshalom checkpoint on the Hungarian border: Guards wave lines of cars through and the duty-free shop is doing brisk business. Crossing this border used to take hours, as cars were searched for arms, Western magazines and hidden escapes.

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## Letters to the editor

### UMO clarification

# Moscow cannot stop Jews flow

Arab leaders denounce 'superpower conspiracy'

AMMAN, Jan 29, (Agencies): Moscow can do little to stop the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinshuk said in remarks published today.

"We are in a difficult position over the issue of immigration to Israel," Zinshuk told the Jordan Times.

"Practically there is very little we can do to control the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, particularly since the United States has imposed a quota on the number of Soviet Jews it would take as immigrants."

Zinshuk said most of the emigrants were not leaving their home country for religious reasons but to seek better economic conditions. Their first choice destination was the West.

"But now that the flow to the United States is curtailed, they are compelled to turn to Israel," he added.

"The emigration and free travel are all part of our liberalization policy and we simply cannot impose any restrictions on Soviet Jews alone while allowing others to leave the country," Zinshuk declared.

He said Moscow was ready to take part in any effort, possibly through the United Nations, to ensure that Israel does not settle Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

The United States should also be asked to increase its quota for Soviet Jewish immigrants, he said.

Zinshuk said Moscow was discussing the issue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Arab governments. He said the problem had not damaged Soviet-PLO relations.

Zinshuk reiterated Moscow's call for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. "We are also ready to contribute to a preliminary meeting to narrow the differences among the involved parties ahead of the conference," he said.

The PLO, trapped between

"When we opened the door (for emigration), they closed theirs," the English-language daily quoted him as saying.

Israel expects 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet Jews to arrive this year and up to 750,000 over the next five or six years. The United States says it will accept 50,000 Soviet refugees a year.

The influx has alarmed Palestinians and Arab states. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called this month for a "big Israel", including the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip, to accommodate the newcomers.

## Arafat holds Mideast talks with Mubarak

CAIRO, Jan 29, (UPI): PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held extensive talks yesterday aimed at co-ordinating their peace moves in the Middle East.

Mubarak's talks with Arafat followed his lengthy discussions in the Egyptian capital on Wednesday with Shimon Peres, Israel's Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

Peres had expressed optimism that the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue would open soon in Cairo.

Peres also said two Palestinian deportees could be included in the Palestinian delegation but ruled out any role by the PLO.

Mubarak has said Israel would be wrong if it thought a solution of the Palestinian issue could be achieved in the absence of the PLO or that the elections it is proposing for Palestinians in the

Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip could produce a leadership to replace the PLO.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has proposed elections for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Al Ahram said in its early editions today that US Secretary of State James Baker has relayed to Cairo his response to a set of proposals made by Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmael Abdel Meguid.

The newspaper said Abdel Meguid had laid down five basic proposals in the form of a memorandum Cairo wants Washington to commit itself to in governing the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Baker responded with a draft letter to Abdel Meguid, emphasizing Washington's views of how to push the peace-making process in the Middle East, the newspaper said.

massive influx of Soviet Jews would "reinforce the intransigence and obstinacy of Israeli extremists and reduce to nil the chances of a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region."

Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Adnaw Omran told Reuters the Arabs felt there was a superpower conspiracy against them. "The Soviet Union wants to get rid of people it sees as troublemakers and the United States is in league with the Israelis on this," he added.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein blamed the United States today for an influx of Soviet Jews in Israel that he said is causing "plain and serious harm" to the

Palestinians.

He told reporters he considers American quotas for foreign immigrants discriminatory, leading almost inevitably to the settling of large numbers of Soviet Jews in Israel.

Saddam, who, coded a previously unannounced 24-hour visit and left for home this afternoon, spoke during a tour of Cairo's new international conference centre.

"This matter involves plain and serious harm to the Arabs generally and the Palestinians in particular," Saddam said.

"We regard the United States as a participant in this immigration because of its policies."

demolitions reduced violence. It found that in many cases such measures informed the actions of the Palestinian uprising.

Meanwhile yesterday, police detained three Jewish activists of the right-wing Kach Party after they protested in front of the East Jerusalem home of Faisal Husseini, a PLO Palestinian activist.

"They went too far this time," said Uzi Sandor, Jerusalem police spokesman. "We believe they planned to cause problems and disrupt the public order."

Sandor said the activists were brought before a court to be remanded in custody, but the judge released them on condition they do not approach within 100 metres of Husseini's house and refrain from harassing him in any way.

## Record number of Arab homes destroyed and sealed in January

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 29, (Agencies): The army demolished or sealed 348 houses belonging to Palestinians in January, the second highest number since the uprising began, a human rights group said yesterday.

In a report, the Israel information centre for human rights in the occupied territories said that 20 houses were destroyed and 18 sealed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the beginning of the year.

"This data indicate a substantial increasing in the use of demolition and sealing as punitive measures in the territories," the report said.

The group, founded by liberal Israeli politicians and academics, said that only the month of June 1989 registered more house demolitions and sealings with 42.

According to their figures, 432 houses have been demolished or sealed for revolutionary activities since the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule began in December 1987.

The latest army figure shows that 383 houses have been destroyed or sealed as of Jan. 18, it said that 22 had been destroyed and 20 sealed since Sept. 10.

The army defends its policy of house demolitions and sealings by saying it serves as a strong deterrent against future unrest, but it has been criticized by the United States and human rights groups in Israel and abroad as collective punishment.

A study released Dec 20 by the Tel Aviv University's Jaffa Center for Strategic Studies disputed army claims that house

demolitions reduced violence. It found that in many cases such measures informed the actions of the Palestinian uprising.

Meanwhile yesterday, police detained three Jewish activists of the right-wing Kach Party after they protested in front of the East Jerusalem home of Faisal Husseini, a PLO Palestinian activist.

"They went too far this time," said Uzi Sandor, Jerusalem police spokesman. "We believe they planned to cause problems and disrupt the public order."

Sandor said the activists were brought before a court to be remanded in custody, but the judge released them on condition they do not approach within 100 metres of Husseini's house and refrain from harassing him in any way.

## MIDEAST BRIEFS

### French minister in Iraq talks

### Resumption of arms sales

BAGHDAD, Jan 29, (Reuter): French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevénement discussed resuming arms sales to Iraq during talks with President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, diplomat said today.

They said the resumption of sales, which ended after the Aug 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war, was on the agenda in the French minister's talks yesterday.

He also met First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan, Defence Minister Abdul-Jabbar Shanab and Military Industrialisation Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan.

Iraqi officials refused to comment on the talks.

France was Iraq's biggest arms supplier after the Soviet Union during the eight-year war with Iran.

Inon reelected: Turkey's main opposition Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP), riding a popularity wave despite internal squabbles, reelected Erdal Inon as its chairman on Monday at the end of a two-day congress. (Reuter)

Islamic resurgence: A new Algerian opposition party has said what it called the worldwide resurgence of Islam on Sunday and said Algeria should be in the vanguard.

The Party of Algerian Renewal (PRA), legalised in October, called for Algerian support for Islamic causes. (Reuter)

US professor wins: A US pioneer in genetic research has won the \$100,000 Wolf Prize for medicine, the Israeli-based Wolf Foundation announced on Monday.

Professor Maclyn McCarty of Rockefeller University, New York, was awarded the prize for his work on the genetic material deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) (Reuter)

Iran denies: The Iranian embassy in Paris on Monday denied reports on the sale of Iranian crude oil to Israel as a price to release six Israeli soldiers held in Lebanon by a pro-Iranian group.

The denial came in a statement that appeared in "Le Figaro" daily response to a report on the oil sale to Israel which appeared in the paper last December 28. (Kuwa)

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Iranian



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Experts see new period of instability

## Gorbachev factor gives psychological shock to markets

LONDON, Jan 29. (Reuters): Markets thrive on rumours, and in the first turbulent days of the 1990s, no piece of wild talk seems more guaranteed to throw the financial world into turmoil than "Gorbachev has been ousted."

The words spell panic for traders and investors from New York to Tokyo as markets become transfixed by the fate of the Kremlin leader in the way Ronald Reagan's health or Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic revolution haunted the 1980s.

Just as euphoria over the collapse of the Berlin Wall drove world stock prices to record highs at the turn of the year, open discussion in the west of Gorbachev's ability to survive crises closing in on perestroika has sent jitters through the markets.

Economists say financial markets, having coped with the revolution in

East Europe, would suffer a deep psychological shock if there were an abrupt change of leadership in the Kremlin — irrespective of implications for the world economy.

"Markets are driven by perceptions," said Hugh Stokes, East European specialist at Oxford Analytica, a private research group. "But even if Gorbachev were overthrown, it need not spell the end of economic reform in the rest of Eastern Europe."

As virtual civil war gripped the republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan last week, stocks and bonds suffered heavy losses compounded by worries of higher interest rates in the West.

So just what would happen if the news that President Mikhail Gorbachev had been ousted did flash across trades' screens?

Economists prefer to leave the doomsday scenario to crystal ball gazers. But they cannot afford to ignore the implications of a change of Soviet leadership which has redrawn the political, military and economic map of Europe.

This is what some think could happen...

Rumours that Gorbachev has been ousted spread like wildfire from closing Asian markets to London and are confirmed in Moscow by international news agencies. The dollar soars against the West German mark, stock and bond markets plummet in a knee-jerk reaction. Gold shoots up as investors seek a safe haven and oil prices soar on fears of interruptions to Soviet supplies to the West. Within minutes central banks are intervening on currency markets to restore order.

As Wall Street opens, panic gathers pace, "circuit breakers" set up after the 1987 Black Monday crash cut in to limit the rush of computer-based selling. Central bank chiefs pledge to pump cash into markets if needed. Bond markets rally on the hope of lower world interest rates.

A measure of calm returns as "Sovietologists" start to analyse what has actually happened in Moscow. The political and economic fall out remains unpredictable. Still jumpy, the markets are vulnerable to after shocks but traders start wondering if they didn't overreact.

Some of that scenario is pure guess work some is based on history. When Reagan was shot in 1981, the US Federal Reserve did intervene to steady the dollar. The 1987 crash was contained by pledges to pump cash into the

markets to head off the threat of bankruptcies to banks and brokers.

The starting point is market fascination with Gorbachev, whose policies have enabled the Soviet Union's East bloc satellites to embrace free markets and open up to the West. His departure would be a serious psychological shock to markets.

Academic research has been sceptical since the October 1987 stock market crash about the traditional hypothesis under which markets react rationally and assimilate information logically.

It is quite possible markets would overreact to news about Gorbachev," said Margaret Bray of the London School of Economics financial markets group.

Economic analysis suggests a new period of instability and possibly

inflationary tendencies for the world economy. But it is no foregone conclusion. Open speculation that Gorbachev's reforms will fail has started to let markets down gently.

Shares have undergone a major revaluation since late 1989 in the hope that companies will scoop up business in lucrative new East European markets. But now they are sliding back again.

Japanese markets were driven higher by a rally in "red chip" stocks likely to benefit from perestroika. Economists say West German shares, boosted by the prospect of a reunited Germany, could be hard hit. But the long-term impact may be less severe.

The inflationary impact of a soaring dollar plus higher gold and oil prices could be more worrying for the global economy.

Bid to boost Opec output capacity

## Subroto seeks Japanese help

### Japan sets terms

ABU DHABI, Jan 29. (Reuters): Japan has set conditions for Gulf countries wishing to invest in its oil refining and retail market, a senior Abu Dhabi official was quoted today as saying.

"According to information we received from Japanese officials, Japan will allow foreign investors to buy shares in its downstream industry on three conditions," Jousan Salim Al Dahir, chairman of Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Co. (IPIC), told Al Bayan newspaper.

He said Japan demanded that the investor should have long-term crude supplies, an agreement between the investor and the Japanese firms, and reciprocal treatment.

"The reciprocal treatment means that we should allow the Japanese to enter joint ventures in the petrochemicals sector and other industries associated with oil," Dahir told Al Bayan.

Two top Japanese oil officials toured the Gulf earlier this month to discuss long-term crude supplies. They said Gulf states were welcome to invest in Japan's retail market.

South African Oil Minister Hisham Nazer, currently visiting Japan, told Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Friday the kingdom hoped to enter Japan's downstream markets.

A senior Foreign Ministry official in Tokyo quoted Nazer as saying such a move could ensure stable oil supplies for Japan.

The Abu Dhabi government set up IPIC in 1984 to enter the downstream business in consumer countries. Abu Dhabi is the biggest oil producer in the United Arab Emirates.

So far IPIC has acquired a 12 per cent share in Spain's Cepsa.

Companies and financial institutions.

"I mentioned to Mr Matsunaga, Japan can bring about discussions. Japan, as one of the oil consumers can feel the need that this oil crisis should be avoided," he said.

Oil experts said there was concern that oil supplies would be squeezed in the mid-1990s.

Asked if Opec nations were willing to let Japan take part in oil production, he said: "Of

course, there are some differences. In certain countries of Opec, foreign companies can participate also in upstream operations... but in some other countries of Opec they want to be their only operators."

The term upstream refers to crude oil production, while the manufacture of petroleum products is known as a downstream operation.

Subroto also welcomed the

opening of new markets in Eastern Europe following political changes in the region.

If Eastern Europe's liberalisation was successful and industry there moved ahead, those countries would need more energy, he said.

Subroto said Soviet production was declining, by four per cent in 1990 compared to 1988. The slight fall was likely to continue, reducing Soviet exports to Eastern Europe, he said.

At the next meeting of the eight-member Opec monitoring committee in March, the organisation would look at supply and demand for the first quarter and whether the current production ceiling of 22 million barrels per day was relevant, Subroto said.

He said he was optimistic the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would follow the organisation's agreement reached at the general meeting last May. The UAE did not agree to the last set of Opec quotas.

Commenting on quotas, Subroto said: "The demand for Opec oil will increase, I think the problem of quota (busting) will be solved itself. Some of the member countries have reached capacity already and others still have excess production capacity."

He said it would be good both for producers and consumers if some Opec nations entered the downstream oil market in Japan.

### Legacy of mistrust remains

#### Alaska oil spill

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Jan 29. (Reuters): Ten months after the United States' worst oil spill, officials from Alaska and Exxon Corp still are bickering over whether the cleanup is complete from the supertanker disaster.

Exxon says it spent \$1.75 billion cleaning up the 11-million-gallon (41.8-million-litre) Exxon Valdez spill. But it still has not committed itself to returning in the spring to finish a job the state says is only half-done.

Exxon manager Otto Harrison insists that, in the spring, oceangoing tankers will be able to tell there ever was an oil spill.

State experts reply that the tarry crude oil is embedded so deeply in the beaches it will harm wildlife for years to come.

Alaskan authorities finally have brought to trial Joseph Hazelwood, the fired Exxon Valdez skipper they hold criminally responsible for causing 1,000 miles (1,600 km) of shoreline and killing thousands of birds and other animals.

Hazelwood, 42, will appear in Anchorage, Alaska, superior court today under a barrage of publicity to face four charges of recklessness.

The US oil industry, which uses Alaska to produce a quarter of its domestic crude, has taken big steps towards preventing a repeat of the disaster which polluted pristine Prince William Sound waters on March 24.

Tankers in the Sound now travel with escort vessels and do not stray outside traffic lanes. Pilots stay longer aboard the mammoth vessels and spill emergency drills have been increased.

But Alaska officials say industry could do far more to help preserve the frontier state's spectacular scenery and wildlife.

### More foreign aid sought for East Europe and international drug war

WASHINGTON, Jan 29. (AP): President George Bush asked Congress today to establish a new \$300-million programme to reward Eastern European countries moving toward greater democracy, and proposed major aid increases to drug-producing Andean countries.

He also wants to pay past-due bills from the United Nations.

In his 1991 foreign aid budget proposal, Bush promised to send proposed new legislation to Capitol Hill to offer details of the Eastern Europe initiative, and the subject is likely to be high on the agenda when Secretary of State James Baker testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday.

The dollar closed in London on Friday at 1.6717 marks, above a day low of 1.6695 and just below its 1.6925 close on Friday.

At midday in Frankfurt the dollar was fixed at 1.6717 marks, compared to 1.6890 on Friday and its low for the year since April 29 last year, when it was set at 1.6683.

In London the Financial Times Stock Exchange index of 100 blue chip shares closed 14.3 points up at 2328.8.

Gold closed barely changed in London at \$418.50 an ounce, after ending at \$418.75 on Friday.

European countries to democracy and free-market economies," the budget states in outlining an overall increase in outlays for fiscal year 1991 that amounts to nearly 12 per cent over the current year.

The estimated outlays for all international affairs categories — foreign aid, maintaining embassies and running the State Department — would be \$16.2 billion in 1991. The 1990 figure is estimated at \$14.6 billion, but that figure has been artificially reduced by one-time income of \$1.7 billion from early repayment of past military aid loans.

A nearly 80 per cent boost is proposed in aid for the war on drugs, including \$175 million in what the budget terms new aid "for the economies of those countries that evidence a determination to attack

seriously the narcotics problem." Under pressure from Capitol Hill, the administration is seeking this aid to help coca farmers switch to other crops.

In addition, law enforcement aid is sought at \$20 million for Colombia, where a crackdown on cocaine cartels has brought violent retaliation; \$19 million for Peru, the world's largest coca leaf producer; and 15.7 million for Bolivia.

The budget acknowledges an end to "the bipolar superpower era" and notes that US participation in international organisations like the United Nations and the World Bank will take on increasing importance.

It proposes beginning the repayment, over a five-year period, of \$620 million in back dues owed to the UN, on top of \$794 million in regularly scheduled payments.

And it asks for \$279 million to pay overdue bills from multilateral development banks.

The budget proposal would continue the two largest recipients of US military and economic aid at their current levels: \$3.5 billion for Israel and \$2.1 billion for Egypt.

It asks, as well, for \$200 million to pay the second instalment of a five-year, \$1.5-billion pledge to an international aid effort for the Philippines.

And \$2.1 billion is requested to make payments to Nato countries and the Philippines in return for rights to maintain US military bases on their soil.

Missing from the budget are specific aid requests for most individual countries.

State Department officials said those numbers were still being worked out and should be ready for Baker's.

SYDNEY, Jan 29. (Reuters): Australia Day holiday. Market closed.

TOKYO: Investors' fund buying aimed at yen-linked shares drove the market sharply up across the board in this trading which exaggerated the effect of purchases.

Yen bond prices and a

relative strong yen also added to the positive mood. The Nikkei index closed at

37,173.07, up 299.63.

HONG KONG: Chinese New Year holiday. Market closed.

SINGAPORE: Trading on the Bursa Stock Exchange was brought to a standstill when brokers boycotted trade to complain at what they said was arbitrary

behaviour by the exchange authorities.

FRANKFURT: Prices soared on news East Germany would hold its first free elections two months later than planned, but investors buying picked up off highs in intertrade. The Dax index closed up one per cent at 1,741 points at 1,811.55.

ZURICH: Shares closed firmer but slipped back slightly from the day's high

### Riyal rates ease

#### KD deposits steady

KUWAIT, Jan 29. (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposits remained steady in their trade today, with few factors to give the market direction.

Overnight was offered at 8-1/2 per cent, up from levels of eight on Sunday. For tomorrow next and spot next were little changed at 8-7/16, 5-15/16 with both rates reported at 8-3/8.

Over and three-month certificates were quoted steady at 8-1/2, 3-1/2 per cent and the six-month one-year certificate at 7-3/8, 1-1/2.

The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate unchanged for the third consecutive day at 0.2902/38 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates eased today after a \$1.5 billion bond government bond settlement left the market liquid.

Dealers said there were still plenty of funds available after the fortnightly settlement because most operators had prepared by placing riyals in the short dates last week.

"The market is still comfortably liquid and rates have eased because of that," one dealer said.

Spot next and one-week declined to 7-7/8, 7-3/8 per cent from eight, 7-1/2 on Sunday.

## California considering regulations

## Environmental issues will affect 'the size and shape of cars'

LONDON, Jan 29. (Reuter): A recent British study found nine out of 10 drivers favoured legislation making pollution-reducing catalytic converters compulsory on cars.

But only half said they would be willing to pay £100 (\$160) extra for the device which converts toxic exhaust emissions into less harmful substances. And just a quarter of those canvassed would pay if the cost was double that amount.

Unfortunately, catalytic converters in Britain cost between £250 (just over \$400) for the smallest cars to as much as £2,200 (\$3,650) for a Rolls-Royce.

Therein lies the dilemma facing environmentalists and automobile manufacturers worldwide.

Environmental concern may top opinion polls, but evidence is scarce

that consumers would pay more for cleaner cars.

A recent report on the car of the future by the independent London-based Economist intelligence unit forecast that bigger engines would not fall into disfavour until the year 2000.

Even then, "a residual demand is bound to exist unless it is positively legislated against," it added.

Industry experts say it is laws, rather than consumers, that will provide the impetus for any shift towards cleaner cars.

"We are moving towards stricter regulations and I suspect that this will become more widespread," said Colin Whithead, an automobile analyst with Prudential Bache Securities in London.

"But for the next five years I don't see any substantial downsizing in cars," he said. In fact, in the United States and Japan there is a pronounced trend toward larger, luxury cars, the fastest-growing segment of the car market.

Motor vehicles that burn petrol or diesel account for more than 20 per cent of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere, the principal cause of global warming. They are also the main cause of smog in most large cities.

Consequently, Ford Motor Co said in a forward-looking report that environmental concern is the most serious issue the car industry must face in the next 15 years.

The report, not officially released

but detailed in the Financial Times newspaper, said environmental issues will affect "the size and shape of cars, what is in them, how they are made, where they are allowed to go and even who can own them."

It adds: "We will see tighter fuel mileage requirements, alternative fuel incentives, fuel conservation taxes and other restrictions."

Such regulations are already appearing.

Several European Economic Community countries require all cars to be equipped by 1992 with catalytic converters which, set between the manifold and silencer, convert 90 per cent of toxic engine gases into less harmful carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons. Such devices have been mandatory in the United States for

years. California, where 10 per cent of all cars in the United States are sold, is considering regulations that would cut allowable car emissions to half the present limit, already the most stringent in the world.

It is after US state legislators in 1983 cut allowable emissions 30 to 50 per cent for 1993 and 1997 model cars.

British Environment Secretary Christopher Patten has recommended a pollution tax on engine size and an increase in petrol tax to curb usage. Britain is also pressing the EEC to set Europe-wide emission standards.

But car makers complain that such regulations place them in a difficult position — governments demand that they cut the fuel consumption of their cars while consumers only want bigger

and faster, or at least cheaper models. One way around the conflict is by following the example of the Netherlands and West Germany, where the governments cut motoring taxes for drivers who switched to catalytic converters.

As a result of the higher demand in its home market, West German car maker Audi is the first European manufacturer to make converters standard equipment of its entire fleet of cars.

But converters have limited capabilities. Environmentalists argue that the ideal solution is a car that runs on a non-polluting fuel such as electricity, methanol or alcohol.

General Motors Co created a stir in early January when it demonstrated an electric-powered car that, unlike previous models, had the acceleration

and power of a sports car.

However, only one prototype of the car exists and GM chairman Roger Smith said extensive marketing tests must be done to determine whether it can be produced profitably.

Earlier studies in France and Italy concluded electric cars could be 20 to 30 per cent dearer than conventional models.

Audi launched a semi-electric system in January that can be put on any of its four-wheel-drive cars. It uses a petrol engine to power the front wheels and electric propulsion for the rear, but adds more than \$9,000 (\$15,000) to the price.

Peugeot of France is going further, producing an electric powered version of its popular 205 minicar starting in April.

## Kuwait seeks four new super tankers

NICOSIA, Jan 29. (Reuter): The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) is in the market for four new supertankers and seven smaller ships, the Middle East Economic Survey reported.

"Definitely tanker freight rates are going to go up and people are going to require tonnage," KOTC chairman Abd Al Fatah Al Badr told the Nicosia-based newsletter in an interview.

He said there would be a shortage of very large crude carriers (Vicks) and the shipyards would not be able to meet demand in time. "All the yards are heavily booked for the next two to three years," Al Badr said.

The newsletter said Kuwait was looking for four Vice tankers of around 280,000 deadweight tonnes (DWT), two refined products carriers of 35,000 DWT, two liquefied petroleum gas carriers of 78,000 cubic metre capacity (around 40,000 cargo tonnes) and three ethylene/LPG tankers of 10,000 DWT.

The latter would carry exports from Kuwait's planned new petrochemical complex.

The newsletter said KOTC currently has 30 tankers with a total capacity of some 2.56 million tonnes.

## Economic recovery hopes soar

MEXICO CITY, Jan 29. (AP): World Bank president Barber Conable, in a televised interview, has expressed confidence in the Mexican economy and its continued recovery from seven years of stagnation.

Mexico "has its problems, but obviously the leadership of this country is getting a handle on those problems and has a vision of the future," Conable told the private Televisa network in an interview broadcast yesterday.

The network did not say when the interview took place. But Conable arrived last Monday and met with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Treasury Secretary Pedro Aspe before departing Friday.

The World Bank lauded the Mexican people for placing "new confidence" in their future and for making "very courageous change in a very short period of time."

He said Mexico has achieved initial economic goals faster than World Bank programmes had stipulated.

"Mexico has truly made its own programme rather than waiting for necessity to force it into change or for some outside force like the World Bank," said Conable.

Mexico is the first nation to re-negotiate its debt since US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady drafted a new American policy of debt forgiveness to countries that undertake serious economic reforms.

"We hope that Mexico's experience here will encourage other countries to make the deep and broad reform efforts that Mexico has made to qualify for Brady plan debt reduction," Conable said.

## EXCHANGE RATES

	01/29/90
Sc. Lankan rupee	0.07350
Pakistani rupee	013690
Bangladesh taka	0.08940
US dollar	21.180
Pound sterling	1.3870
US dollar	0.78920
Deutsche mark	1.74050
Japanese yen	.002046

## Bush proposes \$1.2trn budget

Call to lower deficit to \$63.1b without raising taxes

WASHINGTON, Jan 29. (Reuter): President George Bush sent to Congress today a proposed \$1.2 trillion blueprint for spending in fiscal year 1991 that calls for lowering the US deficit to \$63.1 billion without raising taxes.

The budget plan includes a \$306.9 billion authorisation for defence, slightly higher than the \$301.6 billion authorised for fiscal year 1990, but about two per cent less than the rate of inflation.

The proposed spending represents a three per cent increase over 1990 spending. But the 1991 spending rise would be offset by a nine per cent increase in revenues.

The administration rejected government debt held by the public, which does not include the federal debt held by social security and other government trust funds. It said \$2.36 trillion in fiscal 1991, compared with \$2.3 trillion in fiscal 1990.

The administration also assumes that the inflation rate will remain relatively stable over the next few years and decline to 2.9 per cent in 1995.

The administration sees gross national product, the total amount of goods and services produced, expanding by 2.6 per cent after inflation from the fourth quarter of 1989 and 4.1 per cent in 1991, after an estimated 4.0 per cent in 1989.

Bush renewed his call to cut the capital gains tax. The controversial proposal would reduce the rate for long term investments to 15 per cent.

It assumes GNP will grow by

3.3 per cent in 1991, a forecast many economists say may be too optimistic.

But the rosy economic forecast allows the administration to assume higher revenues that can be used to offset the deficit — at least on paper.

The administration is required to reduce the federal red ink to \$44 billion in fiscal 1991, from \$1.52 billion in fiscal 1989, which ended September 31.

Meeting that goal will require substantial spending cuts and revenue increases. The administration projects the deficit for the current fiscal year will be \$123.8 billion.

The administration rejected government debt held by the public, which does not include the federal debt held by social security and other government trust funds. It said \$2.36 trillion in fiscal 1991, compared with \$2.3 trillion in fiscal 1990.

The administration also assumes that the inflation rate will remain relatively stable over the next few years and decline to 2.9 per cent in 1995.

Consumer prices are forecast to rise by 4.2 per cent from the fourth quarter of 1989 to the fourth quarter of 1990 and 4.1 per cent in 1991, after an estimated 4.0 per cent in 1989.

The administration sees gross national product, the total amount of goods and services produced, expanding by 2.6 per cent after inflation from the fourth quarter of 1989 and 4.1 per cent in 1991, after an estimated 4.0 per cent in 1989.

Bush renewed his call to cut the capital gains tax. The controversial proposal would reduce the rate for long term investments to 15 per cent.

It assumes GNP will grow by

a maximum of 19.6 per cent, compared with the current top rate of 33 per cent.

Bush also proposed a plan aimed at improving the nation's poor savings rate, which financial analysts say forces the United States to rely heavily on foreign money to finance the federal deficit and business investments.

In a message to Congress that accompanied the 1,269-page budget document, Bush said his spending blueprint was designed "with an eye toward future growth and expansion of the business frontier."

He said it provides for record amounts for research and development, space, education and the head start pre-school programme from missiles to aircraft, but calls for building five B-2 controversial radar-avoiding "Stealth" bombers at \$530 million each and developing two types of mobile land-based nuclear missiles.

It also calls for spending \$4.5 billion on the controversial strategic defence initiative, commonly called "Star Wars," an increase of nearly \$1 billion over current spending. That is certain to be a major target of congressional budget cutters.

The Pentagon plan would reduce US military personnel by 38,000 to a total of just under 2.039,000 by the end of 1991, not including any withdrawals from Western Europe under the East-West conventional force talks.

## Plan fails to curb inflation

## Iraqi budget flayed

BAGHDAD, Jan 29. (AP): A top Iraqi economist yesterday criticised the state budget for 1990 as being incapable of boosting growth or curbing inflation — the two main targets set by the government.

Professor Human Al Shamaa wrote in the daily Al Qadissiya that heavy reliance of deficit financing and an insistence on boosting profits of state-run industries were bound to push inflation higher.

"From details of the budget released so far, it is obvious that no reconciliation can be achieved between the targets of combating inflation, and economic growth," Al Shamaa wrote.

The government has not provided full budget figures, but it has released — for the first time in years — some of the allocation totals for particular sectors.

The article in Al Qadissiya, which is the newspaper of the

Iraqi armed forces, was an unusual case of an officially tolerated criticism of basic government policy.

In other recent signs of a measured opening of public life in tightly controlled Iraq, the government recently lifted a ban on foreign travel by Iraqis.

Al Shamaa also criticised the government's economic plan for setting the curbing of inflation as its top priority.

"I would rather put paying foreign debts as the first priority, accelerating economic growth as second, and then other objectives," he wrote.

The government has not provided full budget figures, but it has released — for the first time in years — some of the allocation totals for particular sectors.

The article in Al Qadissiya, which is the newspaper of the

## Aluminium smelter planned

BAGHDAD, Jan 29. (Reuter): Iraq is planning to build an aluminium smelter with an annual capacity of 215,000 tonnes, the English daily Baghdad Observer said today.

The newspaper quoted an Industry Ministry source as saying the French firm Aluminium Pechiney had won the contract to design the project, which would be completed in three years.

There were no details on the cost of the plant and Gulf-side bankers and industry sources had no confirmation.

Planned expansions of plants in Bahrain and Dubai and completion of two new smelters in Qatar and Saudi Arabia are expected to double Gulf aluminium capacity to over one million tonnes by 1994, making the area a major world producer.

The Iraqi smelter would supply domestic industries such as car manufacturers, construction, packaging and electric power transmission, the Baghdad Observer said.

It is the first time in years — some of the allocation totals for particular sectors.

The article in Al Qadissiya, which is the newspaper of the

KUWAIT, Jan 29. (Kuwait): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Buying Selling

US dollar 0.29003 0.29078

Sterling 0.492390 0.493625

DM 0.19250 0.19260

Fr. 0.05070 0.05101

Ital. 0.0002312 0.0002326

Yen 0.002025 0.0020348

U.S.E. 0.77230 0.77252

S. 0.77230 0.77252

Oriyal 0.77963 0.77992

Or. 0.74271 0.75546

Mitsubishi Corp. 1760 +10 Mitsubishi Estate 2320 +10 Mitsubishi H.I. 1110 +30 Mitsui R.E. 2680 +30 Mitsubishi Corp. 1950 +60 Mochida P.A. 4270 +170 Mori Seiki Co. 2040 +60 NEC Corp. 2240 +0 Nikkon Corp. 1670 +10 Nippon Shin Co. 1590 +10 Nippon Steel Corp. 709 +3 Nippon Steel Corp. 2450 +40 Nippon Steel Corp. 1610 +10 Nissens Sec. 314 +40 Okuma Mach. 1760 +30 Oward K. Co. 2290 +10 Orix Corp. 6110 +90 Pioneer Elec. 6650 +70 Ricoh Corp. 2430 +0 Sanjo Elec. 999 +24 Seicom Co. 6210 +10 Shimatsu Chem. 1770 +50 Shimatsu Elec. 1420 +10 Toto Corp. 8650 +130 Toto Corp. 2380 +35

## Dead Sea: once a trade route As far back as 2,300 years

QUMRAN, Occupied West Bank, (AP) Modern visitors see few boats and only sparse settlement along the shore of the Dead Sea, but experts say the region was a lively commercial centre as far back as 2,300 years ago.

Arish Nissenbaum, a geo-chemist, said three stone anchors and mooring ropes found recently in the Dead Sea were the "first datable evidence" to support the theory that the Dead Sea was an active commercial route as far back as the 4th century BC.

"The Dead Sea was not so dead," said Gideon Hadas, an antiquities authority archaeologist. "This is a misleading name given to the lake by the British."

He said carbon-14 testing at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot on well-preserved fiber rope fragments left open the possibility that the anchors were from ships that sank in the first Middle East oil war.

According to ancient historians, a huge naval battle was fought in 312 BC when Antiochus, the Seleucid ruler of Syria, tried to seize control of the trade in asphalt. He was repelled by the superior archery of the

Nabateans of southern Jordan who were backed by Egypt.

Although there was uncertainty about the date because of a 100-year margin of error in dating, Nissenbaum said there was a large Israeli farming community at Ein Gedi and Hasmonean kings a series of fortresses in the area.

The Dead Sea region, surrounded by barren mountains and rocky desert, fell into economic decline after the crusades.

Hadas said the ropes were well preserved because of the high salt content of the water and suggested other remains, even wooden boats, might also be resting in the seabed.

Asphalt, which came to the surface in large blocks from fissures in the seabed, was prized by ancient traders. Nissenbaum said it was used as mortar for buildings, an embalming process, a medicine to treat skin wounds and as a bug-killer.

In a new study of Dead Sea shipping, Nissenbaum said that up to the end of the crusader era there was a active boat traffic on the lake. Ships ferried wheat and corn grown in southern Jordan along the 80-

kilometres (50-miles) length of the salt sea to the northern end where roads led to Jericho and Jerusalem.

Along the shores, there was a large Israeli farming community at Ein Gedi and Hasmonean kings a series of fortresses in the area.

The Dead Sea region, surrounded by barren mountains and rocky desert, fell into economic decline after the crusades.

Today no ships ply its salty waters except for a small flotilla of Israeli military patrol boats. Only a few small settlements dot its shores, and foreign visitors come mostly to the health spas that promote the curative powers, especially for those afflicted with skin diseases, of Dead Sea waters and mineral-rich mud.

Robert Eisenman, chairman of the religious studies department at California state university in Long Beach, suggests today's image of the Dead Sea as a lifeless region may be the result of a misleading view of the customs, keepers of the Dead Sea scrolls.

Traditional theories about the sect portray them as a small isolated community of hermits who sought refuge in a remote wilderness.

## Holiday horror stories hit Morocco

RABAT, (Reuter): Although officially Moroccan tourism is booming, people in the trade are worried. Travel agents fear that reports of bogus guides, rapacious bazaar merchants and double-booked hotel rooms will discourage high-spending visitors from Europe.

Tourism Minister Moussa Saadi, speaking at a recent tourist trade exhibition in Casablanca, said the number of foreign visitors rose last year by 27 per cent to a record 2.15 million.

But Moroccan newspapers said that figure does not tell the whole story. According to their reports, the trade is in crisis.

The Rabat opposition daily L'Opinion said over a million of last year's visitors came from North Africa, including over 900,000 from Algeria. Algerians have flooded in since the border was reopened in May 1988 after a 12-year closure.

Because of shortages at home, one travel agent said, "Algerians come to Morocco on shopping sprees, to buy food, blue jeans, razor blades and things like that. Many of them don't even stay in a hotel but sleep in their cars."

On the other hand, the number of French, Spanish, British and West German tourists was down. There were four per cent fewer French visitors, 11 per cent fewer Spaniards, 12 per cent fewer Britons

and two per cent fewer West Germans.

"This is a problem, not only because they are traditionally the biggest continent, but also because they spend much more, stay in the best hotels," the travel agent said.

In the southern city of Marrakesh, ringed by date palms against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains, hotels averaged 50 per cent occupancy in December. In previous years, they had been booked solid months in advance.

"For the first time since I have been in business there was room at the inn in Marrakesh at Christmas and New Year," complained a veteran tour operator specialising in packages for Britons.

"Marrakesh used to be the 'in place' for jet-setters on winter vacation," he said. "Now they are reluctant to come and I think it is mainly because they are pestered to death by hordes of hustlers, so-called guides, pickpockets and beggars."

"I've seen little old ladies so scared they dare not get out of the bus when they are touring the historic monuments," said Marrakesh resident Abdulla Stouky.

West of Marrakesh, the seaside resort of Agadir boasts 300 days of sunshine a year and draws visitors from northern Europe all the year round.

But West German tour operator Dieter Roland said: "People come once, but only about three per cent ever come back."

He said clients complained of exorbitant prices for food and drink, hotels which took bookings when they were already full, sloppy service and harassment by self-appointed guides hoping for kickbacks on sales of shoddy handicrafts who entice them into bazaars.

L'Opinion devoted a full page to six articles on the problem of bogus guides, saying their numbers had risen in a disturbing and alarming way over the last 10 years.

"God only knows how many 'guides' there are, looking for easy prey. They are all over the place, at hotels, stations, markets," wrote Lahcen Azzabi, blaming widespread unemployment.

Government policy is to recommend tourists to use only official guides, distinguishable by special brass badges.

The Casablanca daily Al Bayane said tourists were regarded as pigeons to be plucked. It listed lamentable practices which it said were the fault of professionals in the trade, not the government:

"Overbooking, swindles by guides and bazaars, harassment by street vendors, shameful restaurant bills, prohibitive taxi

fares, bureaucratic vexations, failure to fulfill promises and sudden increases in tariffs given to tour operators."

Al Bayane said the "detestable image" of those working in tourism was turning foreigners away from the country.

Morocco, only three hours away from European capitals, has a huge tourism potential, with ancient walled cities like imperial Fez and Marrakesh, romantic kasbahs (fortified castles) and oases in the south, lakes and spectacular mountain scenery in addition to a string of seaside resorts like Agadir and Tangier.

Official statistics put hotel capacity at the end of 1988 at over 135,000 beds, including more than 110,000 in the up-market luxury category. The United Arab Emirates group Liva has agreed to spend \$247 million on five more luxury hotels.

Foreign exchange earned from tourism quadrupled to 8.8 billion dirhams (over \$1 billion) between 1981 and 1988, making it the third major source after the phosphates industry and remittances by emigrant workers.

A Tourism Ministry official, who asked not to be identified, said: "Of course we know about the guide problem. It is serious but it is a very delicate problem. We are doing our best because, as you know, there is a lot at stake."

## Kelly's walking tall and proud

LITTLE schoolgirl Kelly Jackson hurries about so fast between classes that teachers have jokingly suggested she should wear a crash helmet.

Even her classmates tend to forget the truth ... that the plucky five-year-old is severely disabled.

Kelly is a victim of crippling spina bifida. But thanks to a specially designed walking brace she can get around by herself and go to a normal school.

Her mum Linda, 30, told me: "When Kelly was born I didn't think she would ever walk. But with the brace she can go to school and be independent."

"She took it like a duck to water. And she won't go to school without it. It makes her the same as everyone else and she can compete with them."

The walking brace, which has metal bars strapped to her sides, supports Kelly and enables her to move her legs.

Although Linda, from Oxford, is delighted with the walker, she admitted: "Kelly is too fast with it! At school they have asked that she wear a crash helmet because she is too wild!"

Kelly, like thousands of other paralysed people, has been given the chance to move about and be independent thanks to a bunch of dedicated hi-tech miracle workers.

Designers using the fast-developing science of orthotics — the use of external devices to correct skeletal weaknesses — now make a variety of braces, walking aids, frames and chairs to beat the most crippling handicaps.

"At the forefront of the new techniques are the hardworking staff of the Orthotics Department at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford. They are dedicated to improving the quality of life for those who are unable to move unaided, whether through disease or accident."

Among the hospital's distinguished patients is former Croydon PC David Preble, who was paralysed from the chest down after falling from a multi-storey car park 15 years ago as he chased a criminal.

He had resigned himself to life in a wheelchair, but now, with the help of a specially designed brace, he can walk again.

Preble, 42, is now working on the Nuffield Orthotics Appeal committee to raise £1 million for the hospital which did so much for him.

He told me: "I first got involved in the appeal when the DHSS decided to do an assessment in Oxford of the American walking brace and the English walking brace.

"I realised that the conditions at Nuffield were abysmal. I mean really awful. To practise walking with the frame, I had to go half a mile away to a gym, because Nuffield didn't have the space."

Although the building is grotty and the equipment inadequate, Preble can only praise the staff who made it possible for him to walk again.

He said: "The staff at Nuffield are brilliant. I'm a big fellow — 17 stone and 6ft 2in. And so when the orthotists tried me in the American brace it buckled. The English brace worked. But they weren't happy and kept working on the American brace, strengthening it and making it useable."

"They just kept at it. They're brilliant."

Jeanette Franklin, who is Appeal secretary at Nuffield, told me: "It was quite a feat to make that aid for David. He is the bravest patient we've ever had here."

"The English brace which David uses cost £1,200 — which is quite a small sum of money to enable someone to walk."

"If you think about it, patients without these walking aids are confined to a wheelchair. If they can't get out of that chair they get all sorts of things wrong with them — like blood-clots and urinary infections."

"So if they can stand up — with the help of some of these frames — not only is it marvellous that they can go to the pub with their pals, but of course their body is moving. So it is very beneficial."

About 13,000 such aids and frames — known as orthoses — are produced by the department each year for patients at 30 hospitals. They are designed for, among others, spina bifida patients and cerebral palsy sufferers, as well as those totally or partially paralysed in accidents.

Jeanette said: "I think these aids give patients a better quality of life and makes them independent. You can't ask for anything more."

"The children who use the special wheelchairs or walking frames we make can go to a normal school and it enables them to live a normal life."

Nuffield has designed and made wheelchairs for people with incomplete or broken spines, which give comfort and also independence.

The hospital's orthotists have designed special crash helmets which prevent young epileptics injuring themselves during a fit. They also make many different types of surgical shoes.

Every patient has a different requirement, no piece of equipment is the same. About 30 per cent of the patients are children.

Nuffield's Chief Orthotist Terry Macmillan said: "We have to design all braces as individual to each child. Every person is a new case."

All the aids, frames and chairs are designed, made and fitted at Nuffield. Casts are taken of the part of the patient's body which needs to be supported or corrected.

The cast is then filled with plaster-of-Paris from which a representation of the patient's limb can be produced. On to this the different types of plastic are moulded to build the required frame or aid.

Jeanette Franklin explained: "The problem we have here and the reason we need to raise the money, is that the department is so small and cramped."

"There is no room for people to be fitted privately. It is desperately small and grotty."

"Be the service here is superb. The staff are willing and kind and helpful."

Margaret Tebbit, wife of top Tory politician Norman Tebbit, received treatment at Nuffield after the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton left her paralysed.

Mr Tebbit, impressed by the staff at Nuffield but disturbed by the facilities, is now chairman of the Appeal.

Jeanette told me: "He is great because he is an active chairman and is so involved. Which is good news for us."

Future fund-raising events include a sponsored children's party at Thorpe Park for 100 handicapped children. The appeal has already raised more than £130,000 since its launch in June.

Jeanette told me: "It's hard work but we hope to reach our £1 million target."

Donations can be sent to The Nuffield Orthotics Appeal, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford OX3 7LD.



Figure appeared in UK court as plaintiff

## 'Living statues' finally return home



PRICELESS bronze statues, more than a thousand years old, are to make the 6,000-mile journey back to their rightful home after making legal history.

The sacred Hindu figures of dancing gods, between eight inches and three feet high, were stolen from temples in southern India. But it was only when they came on to the foreign market that experts realised exactly what they were.

A similar statue of the same age — of the Lord Shiva, God of the Dance, was valued at £275,000 nearly eight years ago. Since then prices have risen still further, but to Hindu deities are more

precious than any amount of money.

They believe that the statues, which date back to the Chola period of the 9th century, gain life as soon as they are installed in their own temple. To them, the statues are living deities to be treated with great reverence.

It is against the law to export such valuable figures from India without a licence. And the statues made British legal history after they were seized by the police Arts and Antiques Squad when they went on sale in London.

He said: "The restoration process of these statues has taken a long time and was very detailed. We had to obtain expert opinions from

the Indian government to establish their authenticity.

"And the statues had to be correctly identified as those stolen from great many temples in the Tamil Nadu State of south India.

"I feel a great sense of satisfaction now in knowing that the statues are being returned to their correct owners. It makes all the hard work that went before worthwhile!"

The figures were formally handed over to the Indian High Commission in London during a ceremony to mark the importance of the occasion. Now they are to be shipped back to the temples where they belong, where their dignity will be restored.

## Demand increases for mammoth tusks

### Ivory trade ban but at what cost?

NAIROBI, Jan 29, (Reuter): Those who thought banning the ivory trade would save the elephant reckoned without the tusks of its extinct relative, the mammoth.

Since an international conference banned the world trade in elephant ivory last October, demand for mammoth tusks, excavated from the frozen wastes of north-eastern Siberia, has soared.

Kenya-based conservationist Esmond Bradley Martin told Reuters that the Soviet Union, which sold five tonnes of mammoth ivory to India for \$25 a kilo in 1986, is now asking \$800 to \$1,000 a kilo from prospective Japanese buyers.

The mammoth, a type of hairy elephant adapted to live in Arctic climates, died out about 10,000 years ago, but tens of thousands of mammoth carcasses have been preserved in Siberia's permanently frozen sub-soil.

Wildlife experts fear a resurgence of trade in mammoth ivory could be used as cover for an illegal trade in elephant tusks.

"Mammoth ivory affords substantial cover for unlawful elephant ivory and the economists' prediction that a ban would push the price up appears to be correct," Ian Parker, an elephant expert based in Nairobi, told Reuters.

Mammoth ivory, which once sold at less than half the price of elephant ivory, is now three times as dear.

Trading

## Happy birthday



Sherin Mary Philip turned 6 on January 26



Rohit Chaudhary turned 9 on January 25



Maya Pious turned 6 on January 28



Faisal Baahir turned 6 on January 20



Nancy Remedius on January 26



Farhana Moghal turned 5 on January 22



Vincent Correia turned 15 on January 22



Faisal Khalid turned 3 on January 26



Saddaf Perwaiz on January 21



Aalia Yasmin turns 12 on January 30



Martin Svitel turns 11 on January 31



Farida Mohsin on January 28

## Crackers and Cheese

By Julie Hodgson

CRACKERS and Cheese were two tiny mice that lived in the back of an old Grandfather clock. Crackers was a brown mouse and Cheese was a white mouse, they had lived in the clock for as long as they can remember. They had many friends that lived near them and often went visiting. On one particular morning, Crackers woke up and thought that the clock was awfully quiet.

"What has happened to our clock?" asked Crackers. "It's stopped ticking" exclaimed a very surprised Cheese.

"But it's ALWAYS ticked, that's why we live here, it's safe when it ticks" said Crackers.

Well Crackers was certainly right, because the people that owned the clock had noticed the clock had stopped, and were already calling the clock maker, to come and take their clock and fix it for them. Little did the owners know that two small mice lived in the bottom.

So Crackers and Cheese decided that they would temporarily move out of the clock and hope that it did come back and not be thrown away.

They stayed at the mouse in the floor boards home. His name was Woody, and had mate and six baby mice, called, Chip,

Flip, Trip, Skip, Dip and Nip. It was quite crowded for the few days that Crackers and Cheese were there, but they enjoyed the company of the little ones.

On the day that the Grandfather clock was due back (according to Cheese that is) the two mice were up bright and early, and looking out of the window for 'their' clock, that sat and waited for a long time, watching the cars go by the house, one car did pull in, but it was just the owner.

"Oh what ever shall we do, if our home doesn't come back" sighed Cheese.

"Not too worry — look" said Crackers. He pointed to a van turning into the path. It was 'their' clock. "Whoopeee" they shouted together.

They watched the two men unload the big old clock and bring it into the house, and put it back in the correct place. The two mice jumped up and down with excitement.

"Not long now, and we'll have our home back" said Cheese.

"I think everyone has left from the hall now, so we can go in," said Crackers.

After they checked the coast was clear, they thanked the floor board family and set off to 'their' clock.

It was so nice to be home again, and most important, they could hear the beautiful sound of the clock going tick tock.



## My mother

My mother is sweet, as sweet as honey, she tells me everything, everything that's funny.

She gives me food, she gives me clothes, but the best I want, is her love.

My mother is a teacher, she teaches me languages, she teaches me writing, and every little thing.

She's kind to me, she's gentle to me, and all I want, is my mummy.

By Shireen Sayed Alim, 8 years, Indian School Abbasiya.



## Reminiscence and hope 1989-90

As the past year has slowly rolled by... Upon the past days I cast a thoughtful eye... I try to reminisce how '89 has been... I try to gather all that I gained... I cry at the sorrows by which I have been pained...

I think of the changes that have occurred in my life... Changes for the better or worse which I still have to find...

I try and master up all my strength... to make every moment of the New Year one of great depth...

I thank everyone for making my stay on earth so eventful... And pray to God to make 1990 even more beautiful...



Priti Lal, ex-student, Indian School.



## Variety

## Joining Sean's business is a steal

Connery, Hoffman, Broderick team up in 'Family Business'



THREE hoods, bent on a robbery, are disguised and ready for crime. But, in real life, they would have to steal the contents of an entire bank — and then some — to make it all worthwhile.

For, two of the robbers in the new comedy movie *Family Business* are among the highest earners in Hollywood. Masked men Sean Connery and Dustin Hoffman could laugh all the way to the bank... while taking their own earnings to it.

In the movie, Sean and Dustin, with Matthew Broderick, are grandfather, father and grandson. They make up a family firm, intent on a \$1 million heist, robbing a research laboratory of its secrets.

It's all a drama of family life as much as money. For 59-year-old grandfather Sean — who has tried to pass on his larcenous ways to son Vito, played by Dustin Hoffman. But Vito, after a sour taste of jail, has turned into a respectable, middle-class citizen.

But young Matthew — who plays grandson Adam has inherited his grandfather's taste for the illegal life. And, as far as Vito is concerned, the worst thing of all is that father and son need him as an essential part of their plot to rob the laboratory of one of the basic secrets of life — D.N.A.

But the moral of the movie is that blood is thicker than gelignite. So a-robbing they all go. The result? Crooks will have to set for themselves.

Balding veteran actor Sean Connery, aged 59, amazingly, plays Dustin Hoffman's father... even though their ages are only seven years apart.

Sean, recently voted the World's Sexiest Man by a magazine's readers explained: "The movie is a tale of generations. I had some initial reservations about playing the part of someone who was originally supposed to be quite a bit older than myself and doing all these extraordinary things.

But we resolved the age issue early on, and I had complete confidence that the yarn would work."

The movie's writer Vincent Patrick says: "Vito is the most ambivalent of the three men. He was raised by his father to be an out-and-out thief. He was given the philosophy that you take what you can from life."

"This puts Vito in jail. But he eventually gives up his criminal activity, not because he gets religion, but because he doesn't want to go back to prison."

"He ends up raising his son, Adam, with values in which he doesn't entirely believe. And Adam ends up wanting to jettison these middle-class values. If one can ascribe a point of view to the story, it's that in the modern world everyone is a potential thief."

Patrick got the idea for the story when, as a new grandfather, he noticed personality traits in his grandchild that had

apparently passed over his son.

He says: "I thought it would be fascinating to do a story about a grandfather who had been a lifelong criminal having a son who turns out not to be one. But the grandson seems to have inherited some of the grandfather's criminal genes. The grandfather and grandson then put the father, who is the middleman of the drama, into a terrible dilemma."

Producer Lawrence Gordan, responsible for *Die Hard* and *Field of Dreams*, says: "Sean was the key. We knew the story turned on the charm and appeal of the grandfather. Face it, a man who is encouraging his grandson to take up a life of crime is not, on the surface, an easy guy to like."

"We needed someone irresistibly charismatic, so the audience would believe that a very bright young man might perceive him as a romantic role model."

And in the charisma field, there is no one quite like grizzled Sean Connery.

## Weighing star performance

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Pauline Collins, the title star of "Shirley Valentine," flew from London to Beverly Hills to attend the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Golden Globe awards.

The middle-aged, slightly plump Collins had been nominated for best performance by an actress in a comedy or musical for her performance as a discontented English housewife who discovered a new life on a trip to Greece.

It was a superlative performance that won uniform praise from critics.

But at the Golden Globes she lost out to Jessica Tandy's remarkable performance in "Driving Miss Daisy."

In another category, the Golden Globe for best actress in a drama went to Michelle Pfeiffer for her role as the sultry vocalist in "The Fabulous Baker Boys."

Doubtless Tandy and Pfeiffer will be nominated next month for the Academy Award for best actress of the year.

And there is a strong possibility Collins also will be nominated.

The question is, how will the 4,700 voting Academy

members weigh one performance against the other if they are all nominated in the same category?

All three were outstanding. How do you choose?

Frequently box-office success is a factor in the nominations, but not this year. "Shirley Valentine" has grossed only \$5.9 million on a handful of US screens. "Driving Miss Daisy" isn't doing much better with \$9.1 million. "The Fabulous Baker Boys" isn't that fabulous with \$17.4 million in the till.

But there are other factors involved.

Pfeiffer has contractual agreements for future films with several studios, which might be enough to sway voters in her favour. She's also young and gorgeous, which rarely hurts.

Tandy, 80, is a veteran campaigner who might win the sentimental vote because this could be her last chance at an Oscar.

Collins apparently has only her performance going for her. That is considerable, though, because without her there would be no "Shirley Valentine," whereas Pfeiffer and Tandy were not called on to carry their films almost single-handedly.

## Actor-director Branagh laments

## Shunning of Shakespeare

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): It's too bad filmgoers so regularly eschew Shakespeare, because one of the year's best films is "Henry V," directed by a brilliant young Irishman named Kenneth Branagh.

Laurence Olivier's "Henry V" in 1946 was lavishly praised by critics. "Hamlet" won the best picture Oscar in 1948, and Olivier got the best actor award. Olivier's "Richard III" in 1956 won him another Oscar nomination.

The theaters, meanwhile were empty.

Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor suffered a similar fate at the 1967 box office with "The Taming of the Shrew."

Even the genius of Orson Welles directing and starring in "Macbeth" could not keep it from bombing.

Both Olivier and Welles' versions of "Othello" can be seen on video.

Some of the finest movies made have been Shakespeare's works but, like the Elizabethan language, they don't translate well for fans of "Ghostbusters" or "Back To The Future."

Shakespeare treated Henry V more kindly than he did other kings. Richard II was too vain. Henry VI was too weak. Richard III was too evil. Henry IV was a usurper. Henry V was a regular guy with the common touch and he was a young man, which was very important.

Branagh had hoped that as a youthful actor playing a heroic, youthful king realistically he would entice young audiences to theaters.

"To some degree I succeeded," Branagh said. "These young people who have seen 'Henry V' are very enthusiastic about it."

Welles was proclaimed a genius when at 25 he directed and starred in "Citizen Kane" back in 1941. "Citizen Kane" became a classic.

But Kane was a thinly disguised William Randolph Hearst, not a long-dead English monarch, so the picture did well at the box office after many hassles over its release.

For whatever reason, Shakespeare

contemporary playwright looking for fascinating material.

"Maybe the secret lives of the current royals will seem exotic 100 years from now," he said. "Our proximity to them does not make for heroic figures."

Distance allows writers, directors and performers to take license, as I did with Henry V, presenting him in extremes. The part offers the richness and variety that 'Hamlet' offers any time.

"You must work on all Shakespeare plays to great detail to reduce them to the simplicity with which they first strike you when you read them. Today's actors have to avoid the declamatory acting style."

"The trick is to make historic figures real people, not stodgy caricatures or talking robots. In reality, the great historical monarchs must come to life with their quirks, else they would have been driven out."

"All kings weren't patricians. They spoke as ordinary humans spoke and felt the same emotions."

Branagh admires Olivier, Peter O'Toole, Richard Burton, Albert Finney, Joely Richardson and other great Shakespeareans, but he thinks modern acting techniques require different performances than those stars delivered.

One of his contemporary idols is Anthony Hopkins.

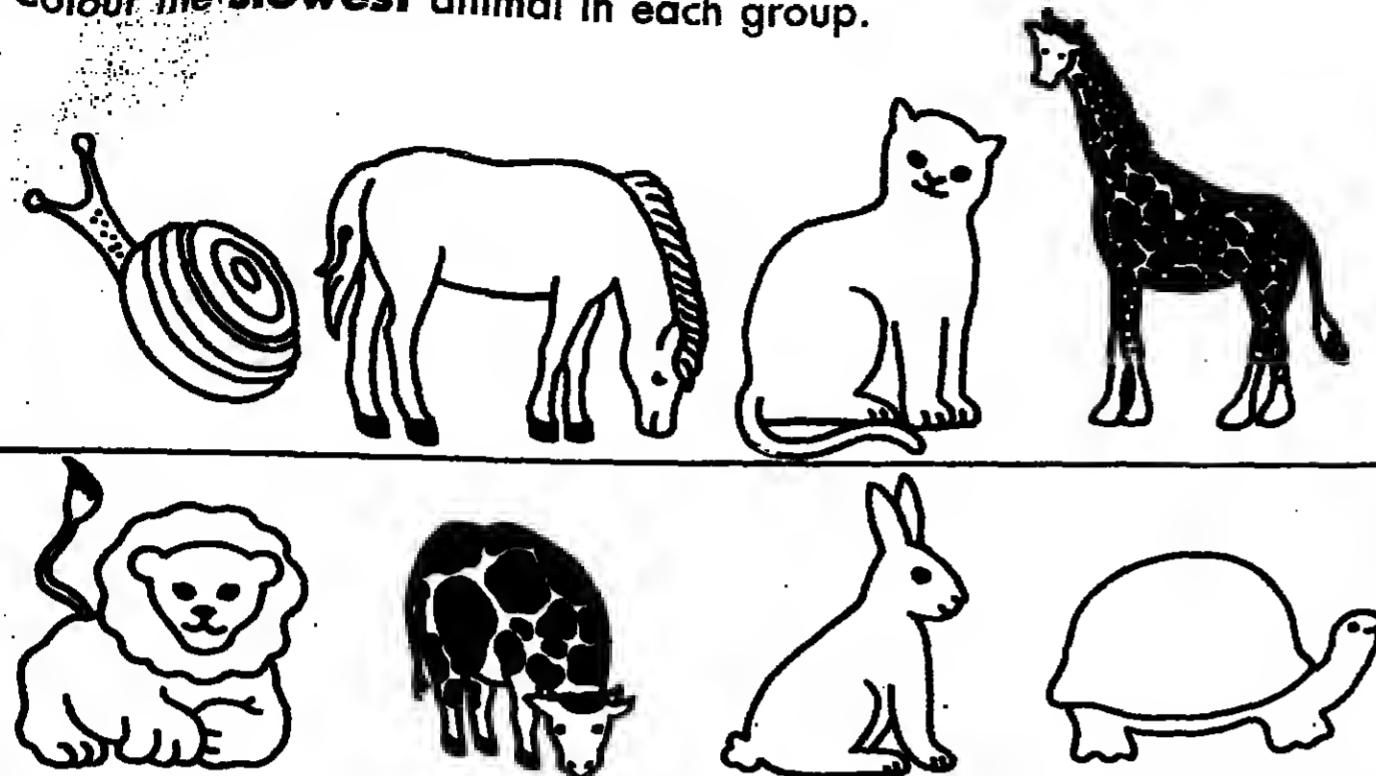
"In acting I tend to free the demons inside myself," he said. "I approach my work viscerally, not cerebrally. You really have to let yourself go to play Shakespeare well."

"You must live through your guts to make it work," O'Toole and Hopkins do that. "They put their whole selves into the role. You stop thinking exciting."

Young Branagh manages to do just that in "Henry V," which will not be seen by even a tiny fraction of the people who have gone to see "Look Who's Talking" twice.

## Slow

Colour the slowest animal in each group.

**DEBORAH DELORA**

Deborah Delora, she liked a bit of fun—  
She went to the baker's and she bought a penny bun;  
Dipped the bun in treacle and threw it at her teacher—  
Deborah Delora! what a wicked creature!

**English folk rhyme**

### Firsts and lasts

The expression 'to eat hummer pie' first came into use because the lower classes had to eat pies made out of the entrails, or innards, of animals at medieval feasts when the great folk ate roast joints. The entrails were called 'umbles', so 'hummer pie' is a pun.

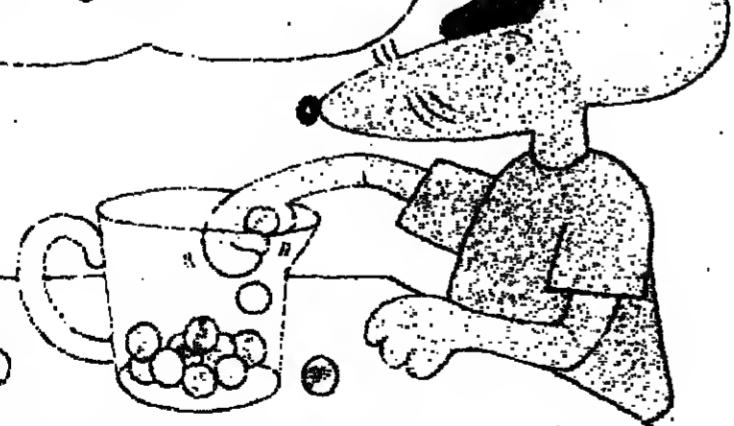
The idea of using gas as a means of lighting was first thought of in England in 1787.

The loud speaker was first used on top of the Eiffel Tower in 1900.

### Join the science gang

How much can you hold in one hand?  
To find out you will need a jug, some marbles,  
small plastic bricks, dried peas or beans  
and some sweets.

Put the marbles in the jug.  
Put one hand into the jug  
and pick up as many  
marbles as you can.

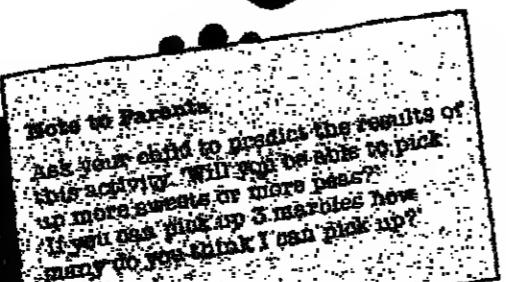


Count how many you have picked up:  
Write the number in the box.  
Then do this again with the other things.

With one hand I can pick up

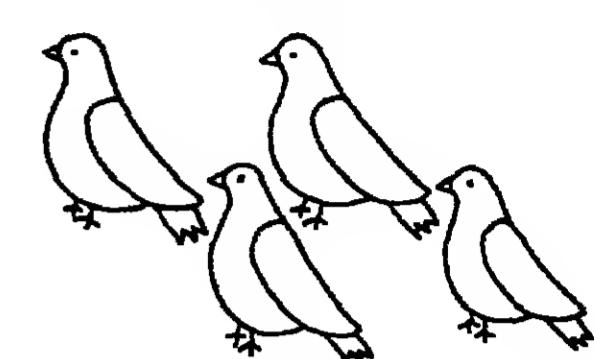
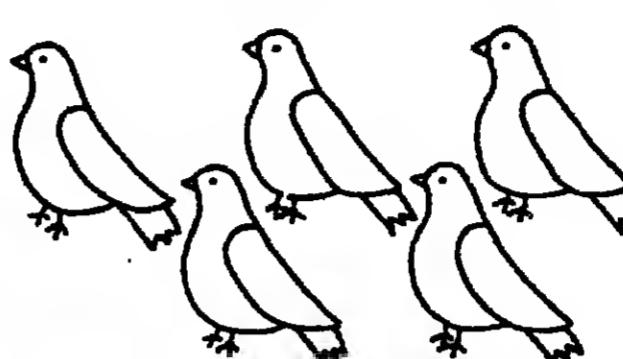
marbles  beans  
 sweets  bricks

Now ask a grown-up to try  
picking up these things.



## Most

Decide which group has the most pigeons. Colour it.



### Just for laughs!

What's yellow on the inside and green on the outside?

A banana disguised as a cucumber.

Where does a dog go when he loses his tail?

To a re-tailer.

Where did Tarzan buy his clothes?

A jungle sale.

What did the lone ranger say when he went to the refuse tip?

To-de-dump, to-de-dump, to-de-dump-dump-dump...

### Word search

SWDSTERCESYTRCA  
EHFSKIGDGRDOBTR  
NTYADSENDSYNRNT  
UOSESSIREATAEE1  
THAEIHLPLIERS  
RCTGTZITWRLMNRT  
OHNYIS100EAQUI  
FIAWTEDTNRRTHCC  
ALFVSIORKTNCDCT  
PDCMATLEEEENLSSM  
NRRLYLTIVAREEEHA  
DESPIEUNBOMVTWK  
TNEREVIEWANEAAE  
CSHDGOINGICRRLP  
HTRCINORTCELESE

### CAN YOU CREATE A NEW TOY?

ABILITY	MEET
ARTISTIC	NOVELTIES
AWARE	NEED
CHALLENGE	PART
CHILDREN	PATENT
CLEVER	PLAYTHINGS
CREW	PROTOTYPES
CURRENT	REVIEW
DESIGN	RISKS
DIALS	ROYALTIES
DREAMERS	SECRET
ELECTRONIC	SELECT
FANTASY	SENDS
FASHION	TERMS
FORTUNES	TEST
GAMES	THRILL
GOING	TOYS
IDEA	TRENDS
INVENTORS	UNITS
INVEST	VALUE
KNOWLEDGE	WIZARDRY
MAKE	WORLD
MARKET	

## Action words

An action word may tell what two or more people, animals, or things do.  
Do not add -s to the action words.

The people like the bus.

A. Complete the sentences.

go goes

1. The wheels on the bus \_\_\_\_\_ around.

look looks

2. The people on the bus \_\_\_\_\_ all around.

B. Write a sentence about what cars do.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Can a friend find your action word?

### Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?  
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?  
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!

Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.  
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Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(confidential)

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P.O. Box 2270  
13023, Safat,  
Kuwait

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within a week before the special date

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favourite  
most  
recent  
picture  
(4x6)

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## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — DICK DOWNS



## AGATHA CRUMPTIE — DICK DOWNS



## BEETLE BAILEY — RYAN FALKNER



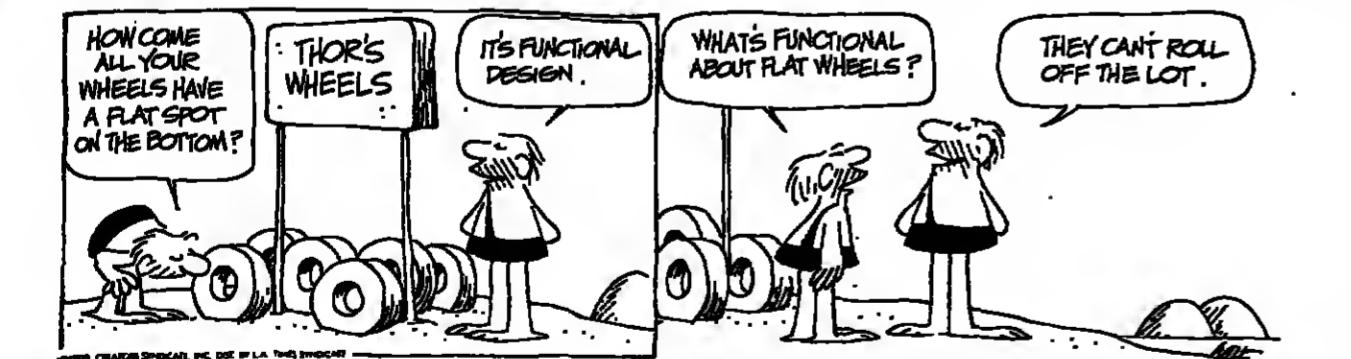
## THE WIZARD OF ID — JEFF MCKEEHAN



## ANDY CAPP — DICK DOWNS



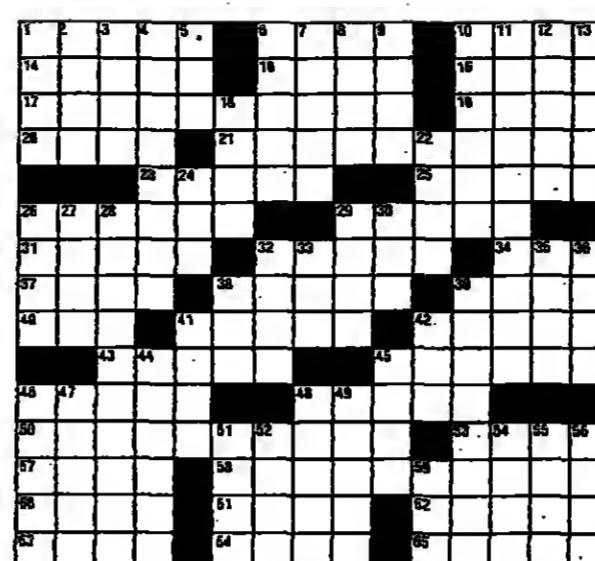
## B.C. — By Johnny Hart



## HE-MAN — BY G. FALK &amp; J. Shult



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

1 Rural sites  
6 Athletic org.  
10 Snow tire feature  
14 Pseudonym  
15 Multitude  
16 Wine: Comb. form  
17 It's considered offensive?  
19 Wife, in law  
20 Pronoun for seniors  
21 Mother's helper  
23 Colorful ducks  
25 Winter wear  
26 Laves  
28 — Nicholas  
31 Bower  
32 Change  
34 TV revenue sources  
37 Presently  
38 Banane leaf fiber  
39 Word with bill, book or boy  
40 Brit. capital  
41 Awkward  
42 Band section  
43 Organic compound  
45 Vitamin A source  
46 Tack  
48 Debates  
50 Lotion for man  
53 Klin  
57 Gang follower  
58 Cabaret employee  
60 Connery from Edinburgh  
61 Norse deity  
62 Photo finish  
63 George's goat  
64 Gold cloth

## 65 Excuses

32 But, in Berlin  
33 Chart  
1 Kismet  
2 TV alien and others  
3 Laugh —  
4 Race named for a Greek town  
5 Type of missile: Abr.  
6 Relating to birth  
7 Nursery needs  
8 Chinese seaport  
9 Author Rend and namesakes  
10 Lenten towards  
11 Abstainer  
12 Not yet solved  
13 Activists  
18 Down with: Fr.  
22 Footnote abbr.  
24 Poetic always  
25 False god  
27 Florence's river  
28 Chieftain meet  
29 Faction  
30 Collection of

## anecdotes

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30 Collection of

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

PERI	AWARE	ELMD
AVID	SEVER	HAIL
LETT	HAI	HIND
RIDE	VERSUS	WADE
RAS	TEEN	
AGENT	JDE	ACTED
RAIN	DUT	AREDLA
BUCKED	DTH	SYSTEM
UNREAD	ELK	ACE
STENS	ARM	BELTS
HERD	TIN	
THEDEER	HUNTER	
ARJD	ALIEN	IRON
WARY	RIFLE	RISE
ETES	SEEIN	ERS
64	Gold	Cloth

## SCREEN BIRDIES

## BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

## SHOW, BUT DON'T TELL

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**

♦ 9 4 2

▽ A Q 7 5

♦ K Q 6

♦ K 10 4

**WEST**

♦ Q 8 5

▽ 9 6 3

♦ J 10 9 7 2

♦ A 4

♦ A 8

♦ 7 6 3

**EAST**

♦ J 10 7 3

▽ J 10 8 2

♦ 8 5 3

♦ Q 9 5 2

**SOUTH**

♦ A K 6

▽ K 4

♦ 8 5 3

♦ Q 9 5 2

**The bidding:**

South: West: North: East

1 NT: Pass: 1: Pass

1 NT: Pass: 3 NT: Pass

Pass: Pass

**Opening lead:** Jack of ♦

No matter what convention you add to your arsenal, in bidding or play, you have to give up something. Among the more popular defensive conventions adopted by experts is the lead of the jack, ten or nine against a no-trump contract shows possession of either none or two higher honors. That played a critical role in this hand from a team match.

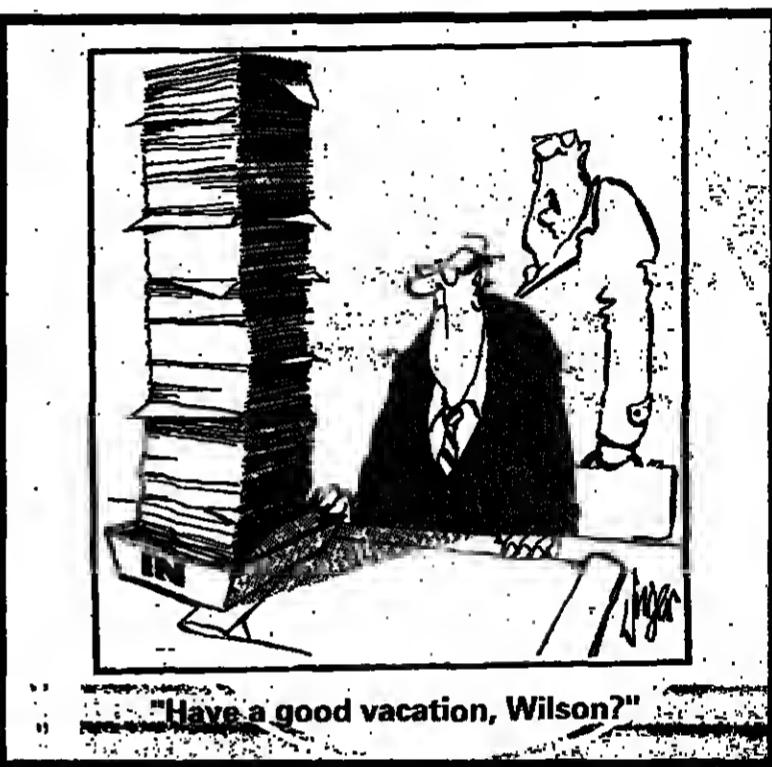
The bidding at the two tables was identical. After South described a

balance minimum North, with a full opening bid and also a balanced hand, had no ambitions beyond three no trump.

At both tables West led the jack of diamonds. At one table the lead had no conventional meaning and declarer had to guess whether it was away from the ace or not. With nothing to guide him, South elected to play the table's queen. East won the ace and returned a diamond and West forced out dummy's stopper. When West gained the table's queen and the ace, the defenders could cash just enough diamond tricks to defeat the contract.

At the other table declarer was blessed with the knowledge that the opening lead signalled either two higher honors or none. Since it could not be two, it had to be none, marking East with the ace of diamonds. Therefore, declarer followed low from dummy to the first trick and the jack won. West continued with the ten to the queen and East's ace, but East had no diamond to return.

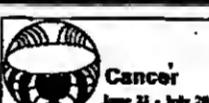
Declarer won the spade shift in hand and forced out the ace of clubs. That gave him a total of 10 tricks—four clubs, two spades, three hearts and a diamond—and a gain of 730 points.



## COUNTRY STARS



If you continue eating out of habit without regard to your figure you will tend to lose it. Do all you can to stay on the best terms with those around you. Do not delay what you know should be done now. Be less impulsive.



You are likely to make good progress but do not rush your efforts. And you are liable to confuse something essential with something that is not. A person you thought was a good friend may well turn out not to be. Be considerate.



Nothing will proceed quite as smoothly as you would like. However, a little more determination will enable you to deal with the obstacles. You are more prone to infection and should take better care of yourself. Be thankful.



There is nothing to be gained by dwelling on the past and wishing it had been different. You should welcome rather than resisting change. And do your best to keep up to date with new developments. Be alert.



Make sure you do not leave any bills unpaid and do not get into debt. You are far too liable to take things for granted, desist. Avoid becoming involved in what does not concern you. Be generous.



You will feel more at ease with yourself and consequently with others. However you must beware of losing your temper. Do not permit yourself to be distracted. Be more tolerant.



Something you have learnt recently will help you to succeed in a way you did not think possible. You should make sure you have not got your dates mixed up. Try to find time to read; do not watch too much television. Be fair.



You do not have as much time as you think you have so try to get a move on. Take even greater care than usual when on the road either walking or driving. Do not trust too much to luck even though you are likely to have some. Be reasonable.



Do not allow yourself to be tempted into a 'safe' investment that will make you rich. Instead think about it and try to take professional advice. There are hidden risks.



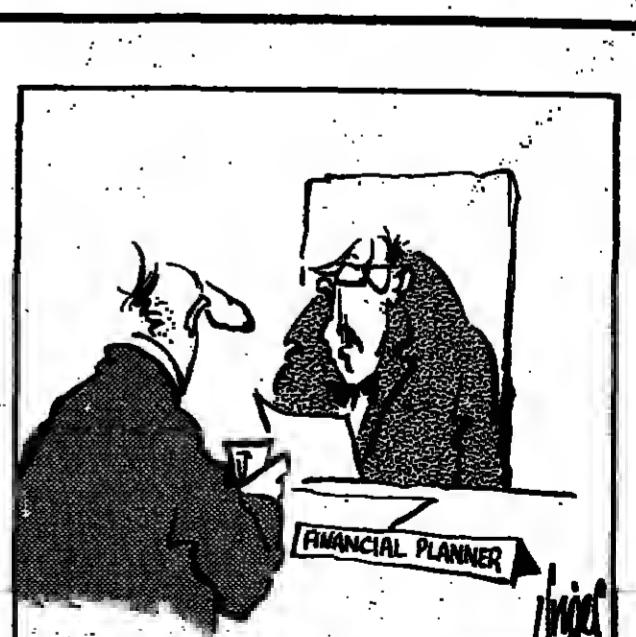
You should not concern yourself with secondary matters just now. Your lucky numbers are 23 and 37. A hobby should not be taken too seriously. If you think it is too late to learn, you are getting old whatever age you are! Be prompt.



You should not take everything so seriously; there is a lot to be said for a good laugh. You should have a little more fun in yourself and avoid excessive pessimism. Nor should you be too suspicious or envious. Be contented.



"The fridge stopped working, so I put antifreeze in the milk."



"If you could afford the fare, I'd suggest Brazil."

# ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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- 1) New flat, Farwaniya Ghazali Street with 3 bedrooms and sitting room, rent KD 210/- per month.
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Contact Tel: 2423944

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### Available

FARWANIYA, on the main road, accommodation in a spacious flat for an Indian couple or bachelors to share with another couple. Tel: Joseph, 4742716, 4735670, 8 am-4:30 pm.

(AT5-51314-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, near the Deeman Complex. Accommodation in a flat for 2 Indian bachelors with meals. Tel: 2405139, 9 am-4:30 pm.

(AT4-51305-3)

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MISHRIK, deluxe CAC new villa with basement, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, built-in cupboards fitted kitchen and servant's quarter. Rent KD650. Tel: 5324848. (AT4-51298-3)

### Wanted

SPACIOUS room required for bachelors to share with an Indian family (non-Kuwaitis) in Kuwait City, from Feb 15 or earlier. Tel: Mr Vinsayak, 2445040, ext 248. (AT4-51268-3)

## FOR SALE

### Cars

OPEL SENATOR L '85, fully automatic, light blue, AC, in excellent condition. KD1,400 ono. cash. Tel: 2641624. (AT3-51274-3)

OLDSMOBILE Cutlass, 1983, fully automatic, 1-door, AC, in very good condition. KD1,600, negotiable. Tel: 9020287. (AT2-51240-3)

TOYOTA Corolla box, 1982, with AC, manual, insured upto October 1990, in good condition. KD550 ono, cash. Tel: Mrs Gular, 5610457. (AT3-51290-2)

TOYOTA Cressida, 84, fully automatic, sliding sunroof, white, in good condition. KD1400. Tel: Mr Saleem, 4313195, after 3 pm. (AT4-51294-3)

### Miscellaneous

TWO Gibson ACs, KD45 each; Algor fridges, KD35; National washing machine, KD25; mirror 6'x1.5', KD5. Tel: 4743283. (AT3-51284-2)

ORGAN Yamaha - D85, 3 keyboards, as new. Price KD50/-. Tel: Mr Connigton, 3715617. (AT4-51312-3)

SMALL, bay, fridge, single bed, suite (2 beds) 2 armchairs, various baby items, 20m carpet, and 30m curtain. All in excellent condition. Tel: 3903561, after 2:30 pm. (AT2-51265-3)

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Villas, half villas, flats, complete buildings, offices in all areas in Kuwait with or without swimming pool

Qatari Real Estate  
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1. Cleaning labourers
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With valid residential permit.

Please try to contact us on Tel. No. 3988678 - 2414266

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MAID required immediately for a family with one child. Tel: Mr Nizar, 5535952. (AT2-51272-3)

MAID required for a small Indian family to work from 7 am to 4 pm. Tel: 5723576. (AT3-51292-3)

MAID required, Sri Lankan, for a small Indian family, to live-in in Hawalli. Tel: 2613622. (AT4-LD-e-TM-3)

MAID required immediately for an American family, to live-in. Must be fluent in English and active. Tel: 3724797. (AT3-51293-3)

A RELIABLE housekeeper required with good references and transferable residence. Only those with necessary papers should apply. Tel: 2407391, 8am-2pm. (AT2-51269-3)

## LOST

PASSPORT No. G-970275 in the name of Alexander A. Aquino, Filipino. Finder please tele 4849674, 2418864. (AT3-51282-2)

PASSPORT No. C121250, in the name of Stefanie Brenda Ferros, Indian. Finder please tele. 2439255, or inform the Indian embassy. (AT3-51280-3)

## PETS

POMERANIAN dog, white, beautiful, 8 months old, vaccinated, well-trained, good with children, for sale, KD50. Tel: 4835802, work: 3902882 home: 4835802, work: 3902882 home: 4835802. (AT4-51287-2)

## WANTED

LADIES, do you have any hardly worn trendy Western styled clothes you do not want? Well, I will buy them for cash and collect. Tel: 2633756, 9 am-1 pm, 4-9.30 pm. (AT3-51289-3)

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Saqua — Villa with 4 bedrooms, dining room, large sitting room with carpet, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, servant's quarters, large garden, garage and tele. Rent KD 550.

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For a food processing factory in Sabhan

### Filipino girls

To work on wrapping machines.

Interested persons please contact on telephone

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## REQUIRED

an experienced  
Air-conditioning technician

with  
Kuwaiti driving licence

Contact on telephones:

2440644, 2440655, 2436343

## REQUIRED

For an aluminium factory  
Technician and helper  
with good experience.

Tel. 4761316/7/8

## VILLA FOR RENT

A beautifully maintained four BRS, 3-1/2 BA home, with lovely courtyard, neutral decor, ceramic floor, oversized garage.

Tel: 4744266

## FOR SALE

Winnipeg Lashcorp Motorhome (Van) model - 1987 full option, in excellent condition. Colour of exterior & interior cream with white. Price KD8,000/-

Please contact Mr. Asħek/Sheħħas Tel: 5788333/385

## JOBS OPPORTUNITY

Required 5 heavy duty mechanics and one auto electrician

For a new equipment maintenance company. Minimum previous experience 5 years in similar field. English language preferable.

Must have transferable residences.

If interested, please send your C.V. to the following address:

K.L.M. E.C. Co., W.L.L.

P.O. Box: 26549, Safat, 13128 Kuwait.

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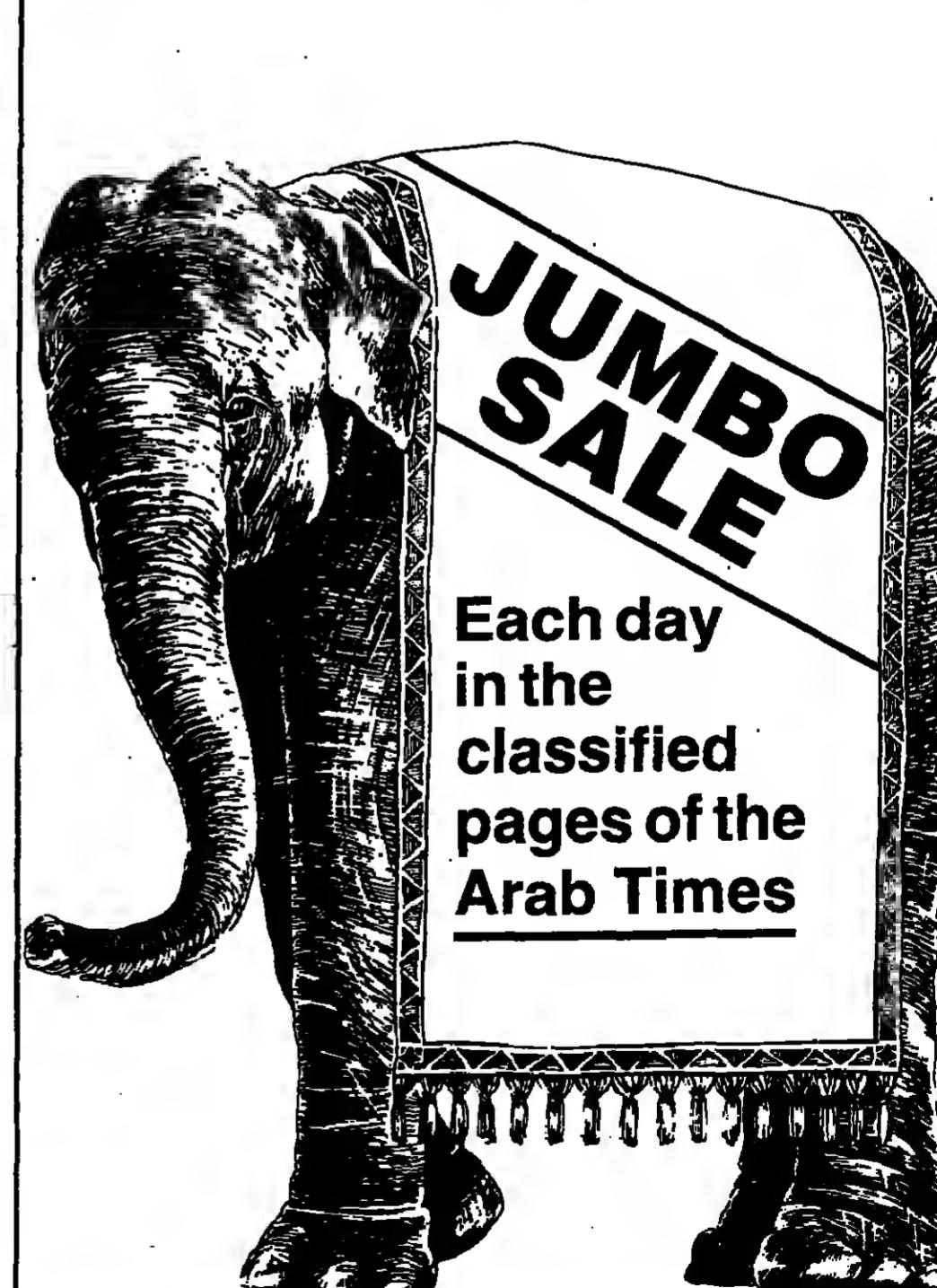
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## SPORTS



Denver quarterback Elway sits on his 24-yard line after being sacked by 49ers.



San Francisco cornerback Darryl Pollard celebrates his team's victory at the end of the game.



Brent Jones dives across the Denver goal line for 49ers' second touchdown of the match.

# 49ers romp to Super Bowl victory

Montana & Co. make it look easy



Broncos' Elway (left) shows his disappointment while Montana celebrates his victory. (Reuter wirephoto)



## Statistics

### Linescore

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Final
San Francisco 49ers	13	14	14	14	55
Denver Broncos	3	0	7	0	10

	Denver	San Francisco
First downs	12	28
Rushes - yards	17-64	44-144
Passing yards	103	317
Passes	11-29-2	24-32-0
Sacks by - yards	1-0	6-33
Punts	6-38.5	4-39.5
Fumbles - Lost	3-2	0-0
Penalties - yards	0-0	4-38
Time of possession	20:29	29:31

### Individual leaders:

#### Rushing:

Denver — Bobby Humphrey 12-61, John Elway 4-8

San Francisco — Roger Craig 20-69, Tom Rathman 11-38

#### Passing:

Denver — Elway 10-26-2, 108 yards

San Francisco — Joe Montana 22-29-0, 297

#### Receiving:

Denver: Bobby Humphrey 3-38, Steve Sewell 2-22, Vance Johnson 2-21

San Francisco — Jerry Rice 7-148, Craig S-34, Rathman 4-43, John Taylor 3-49



The hero of the match, Montana, scrambles for yardage during first quarter. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Montana rewrites record book

NEW ORLEANS, Jan 29. (Reuter): Besides orchestrating San Francisco's 55-10 destruction of the Denver Broncos yesterday, 49er quarterback Joe Montana rewrote the Super Bowl record book.

Here are some of the highlights:

Most touchdown passes, career, 11 (previously 9 by Terry Bradshaw)

Most touchdown passes in one game, 5 (previously 4 by Bradshaw and Doug Williams)

Most passes attempted career, 122 (previously 98 by Roger Staubach)

Most passes completed career, 83 (previously 61 by Staubach)

Highest completion percentage career, 68 per cent (extending his own record of 65.6)

Most yards passing career, 1,142 (previously 932 by Bradshaw)

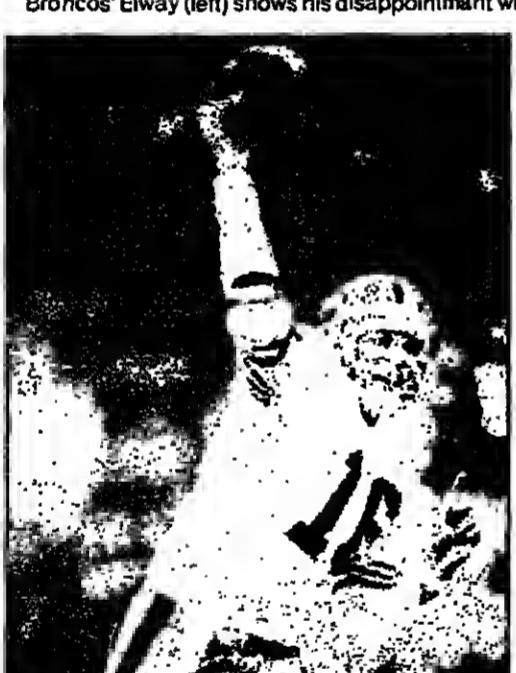
Most attempts without an interception career, 122 (extended his own record)

Most consecutive passes completed in a game, 13 (previously 10 by Phil Simms)

Most times named Super Bowl Most Valuable Player — three, previously two by Bart Starr, Bradshaw and Montana



John Elway throws a pass that falls incomplete. (Reuter wirephoto)



Joe Montana (left) in action and later kissing his son after victory. (Reuter wirephoto)



John Elway throws a pass that falls incomplete. (Reuter wirephoto)

Montana immediately turned into two more touchdown passes — one to Rice and one to John Taylor.

Elway, superb in the Conference championship two weeks ago, had his third miserable Super Bowl. Elway completed just 10 of 26 passes for 108 yards. He ran three yards for Denver's lone touchdown but that came after the 49ers leading 41-3.

Things only got worse for Denver quarterback John Elway after the half. He threw two incomplete passes that Montana made it tough for anyone to beat," said Reeves.

San Francisco capitalized on Denver's mistakes, turning two fumbles and two interceptions into touch downs.

San Francisco went ahead 13-3 when Montana capped a 54-yard drive with a seven-yard touchdown pass to tight end Brent Jones and engineered a masterful 14-play drive that used up more

than seven minutes and ended with a one-yard plunge by fullback Tom Rathman to make it 20-3.

Montana connected with Rice on a 37-yard touchdown as the first half came to a close and San Francisco held a commanding 27-3 lead at the half.

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## GAMES BRIEFS

## Sports daily

NEW YORK, Jan 29. (Reuters): The first nationwide daily newspaper for American sports fans will be launched on Wednesday. Mexican media magnate Emilio Azcarraga is betting \$100 million that there are at least one million Americans who still feel so hungry for sports news after reading their local newspaper that they will pay 50 cents for a copy of "The National."

## Egypt win

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Jan 29. (AP): Egypt defeated the United Arab Emirates 2-1 in an exhibition soccer match yesterday that was part of the warm-up games for the World Cup finals.

## Soccer fans

WARSZAWA, Jan 29. (Reuters): About 1,000 soccer fans went on the rampage after a match in the Polish city of Krakow yesterday, smashing windows to the Soviet consulate and communist party headquarters and damaging cars, shops and apartments.

## Romanians lose

MARSEILLE, France, Jan 29. (Reuters): The Romanian national soccer team, playing its first match since last month's revolution, lost 2-1 to French champion Marseille in a friendly yesterday.

## Platt injured

LONDON, Jan 29. (Reuters): Championship-chasing Aston Villa forward David Platt, the leading scorer in English soccer's First Division with 19 goals, may be out of action for two months with a broken leg.

## Korean talks

PANMUNJOM, Korea, Jan 29. (UPI): South and North Korean sports officials met once again today but failed to reach a final accord on sending a unified Korean team to the 1990 Asian Games to be held in China.

## Hoeflechner wins

VAL D'ISERE, France, Jan 29. (AP): Austrian Helmut Hoeflechner powered to his second World Cup downhill victory in three days today by holding off Swiss skier William Besse by .84 seconds.

## Locher triumphs

VAL D'ISERE, France, Jan 29. (AP): Swiss skier Steve Locher edged Frenchman Armand Schiele by .03 seconds to win a World Cup Super-G today.

## WBO fight

LONDON, Jan 29. (AP): Nigel Benn of Britain will fight Doug Dwyer of the United States for the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) middleweight championship, it was announced today.

## Blanco recalled

PARIS, Jan 29. (Reuters): Veteran full-back Serge Blanco and fly-half Franck Meaudre have been recalled by France to face England in their Five Nations Rugby Union match on Saturday.

## Molina wins

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey, Jan 29. (AP): John Molina retained his International Boxing Federation junior lightweight title by flooring Lupe Suarez twice and stopping him in the sixth round of a scheduled 12-round bout yesterday.

## BRIDGE

RESULTS of Hubra Centre Bridge Club game played on Saturday:

N/S:  
1. Dr Omar & Nabil Akel  
2. Kudrada & Matrouk  
3. El Baz & Ezzeldin  
E/W:  
1. Salman Ali & George  
2. Dr & Mrs Oskay  
3. M. Merchant & Carsten

## Steroids give Games bad publicity

## Gunnell defeats Flintoff-King

AUCKLAND, Jan 29. (Reuters): Anabolic steroids again threatened to spoil the party at a major sporting occasion today when an Indian athlete tested positive at the Commonwealth Games.

Sally Gunnell's defeat of Olympic champion Debbie Flintoff-King in the 400 metres hurdles, highlight of a great day for England's athletics squad, and Canadian Mark Tewkesbury's second 100 metres backstroke title were overshadowed by the doping controversy.

"Drugs are all people are talking about today," said English heavyweight lifter Mark Thomas after winning three golds. "The bad publicity really bothers me."

Organisers were hoping the biggest multi-sport event since the 1988 Olympics would live up to its image as the clean Games and prove that drug-improved performance was left behind with Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson in Seoul.

But a positive preliminary test, reported to involve weightlifter Subratakumar Paul, has dented hopes that Johnson's shame would inspire other drug-taking athletes to kick the habit and compete on equal terms.

"It's no big deal, no more than a sprinter breaking his lane and being disqualified," McManaman said.

But other officials, including International Weightlifting Federation general secretary Dr Tamas Ajan, expressed dismay at the news.

Gunnell, who won the 100 metres hurdles in Edinburgh, was always in front but surged away from the final barrier to win in 55.38 seconds. Flintoff-



Indian weightlifter Subratakumar Paul in action during his bronze medal performance. (Reuters wirephoto)

King of Australia, who is now expected to retire to have a baby, clocked 56.00.

Another member of the English team, Krisz Akabusi, won the men's event in 48.89 ahead of

Kenya's Gideon Yego while England's Myrtle Angier headed compatriot Judith Oakes to win the women's shot.

Dual Olympic champion Sebastian Coe struggled to qualify for the 800 metres final, finishing fourth in a semifinal which saw the end of veteran New Zealander John Walker's hopes in the top-lap event.

Tewkesbury shook off a bout of influenza to claim victory with the second fastest time over the past 12 months, 56.07 seconds.

Anthony Mosse also repeated his Edinburgh feat by winning the 200 metres butterfly to give the New Zealand crowd the gold medal it so desperately desired.

Australia took their haul of swimming gold medals to 18, equaling their best ever total, by winning the women's 4x100 metres medley, a victory that allowed Lisa Curry to repeat her three-gold tally at the 1982 Games.

Sprint specialist Andrew Baldwin won his fourth title in the 30 metres freestyle but Hayley Lewis was thwarted in her attempt to win five golds, finishing with a mere bronze behind Canada's Nancy Sweetnam in the 200 metres individual medley.

Australia led the medals table with 33 golds ahead of Canada with 24 and England 20. Jersey grabbed their first ever Games gold when Colin Mallett won the individual smallbore rifle.

Weightlifting does not deserve to be expelled from the Olympic and Commonwealth Games despite the latest drugs controversy surrounding the sport, one of weightlifting's top officials said today.

"I hope weightlifting will not be kicked out," said Tamas Ajan.

"In that case you can kick out any sport because all the sports have their own problems," he said.

Questions have been asked about weightlifting's future since five competitors tested positive at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

It was easy to single out any sport for expulsion because the problem of drugs in sport was so widespread, Ajan said. "But why this sport, why not another sport?" he asked.

Weightlifting had strict international random testing worldwide, said Ajan, but he admitted it was still not enough.

"Drugs are the main problem of modern sport. Even though we are making many drug tests, the present procedures are not perfect."

## Standings

Medals table after the fifth day of Commonwealth Games competition on Monday (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):

Australia 33 30 33  
Canada 25 19 18  
England 20 20 22  
India 11 10 8  
Wales 8 4 4  
New Zealand 5 6 7  
Nigeria 1 7 4  
Kenya 1 4 1  
Scotland 1 3 3  
Nauru 1 2 —  
Bangladesh 1 — 1  
Jersey 1 — 1  
Jamaica 1 — 1  
N Ireland — 1 —  
Zimbabwe — 1 —  
Hong Kong — 2 —  
Bahamas — 1 —

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